

PETITION

To safeguard the Santa Fe National Forest on Glorieta/Rowe Mesa, Cañada de los Alamos, and throughout New Mexico

The undersigned hereby petition the Forest Service and its Pecos/Las Vegas Ranger District to review their current draft “Santa Fe National Forest – East Side Travel Management DRAFT Proposed Action, August 6, 2007”. We believe that the Forest Service’s current proposal does not reflect the criteria and guidelines of the Travel Management Rule. In addition,

We are deeply concerned that:

- The publication of National Forest OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) trails will greatly increase the number of OHVs on the mesa including ATV tours, manufacturer-sponsored events, off-road group rallies and racing.
- The density of OHV roads and trails in combination with camping allowed 100-300 feet from trail or road essentially means that the entire National Forest on Glorieta Mesa and Cañada will be open to OHVs.
- OHVs create non-reversible ecological damage: soil erosion, wildlife habitat disruption, trampling of grasses and saplings. Destructive effects on streams and watersheds will result from an increase in OHV traffic in National Forests.
- Unique and potentially significant archaeological sites, known but not officially recorded or studied, will be exposed to vandalism, disturbed or desecrated.
- OHVs produce noise that affects wildlife, nearby livestock, and people.
- The destructive presence of OHVs in the National Forest effectively excludes those who want to enjoy quiet and safe recreation.
- There will be increasing occurrences of damage to property and disturbance of livestock, and increasing risk of incidents arising from drinking and use of guns.
- An increased potential of fires will result from smoking near gasoline and dry grasses, plus the potential of fires from OHVs themselves.
- A published map and infrastructure supporting OHVs will invite non-locals into our National Forests who are unaware of the mesa’s vulnerabilities, especially fire and fragility of the ecosystem.
- The Forest Service plans will require a significant increase in enforcement by the Forest Service, an increase in the number of events requiring a response by the county Sheriff's office, and an increase in rescue and emergency calls, all at taxpayer expense.
- The inherent hazards of OHVs, especially ATVs, to their operators and anyone nearby, are in direct conflict with Forest Service guidelines regarding mixed use and safety for all users.

Emailing this petition to us indicates your support:

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