

Protect & Preserve Glorieta-Rowe Mesa

*Protect and share our national forest.
Preserve quiet recreation on Glorieta/Rowe Mesa.*

A new Forest Service proposal would give the entire Glorieta/Rowe Mesa over to Off-Highway Vehicles (OHV) for year-round recreational use. A dense network of roads and trails would be available for OHVs, including ATVs and motorcycles, and effectively eliminating the use of the Mesa for those of us who enjoy quiet recreation.

The National Forest on Glorieta/Rowe Mesa belongs to all of us. Our primary concern is preserving the land. We also have a stake in how we share this resource, whether it is for recreation, ranching, or other designated uses. The current proposal sacrifices the forest to the use of a single category of recreational users (OHVs). As an OHV playground, other forms of recreation are no longer viable. This is not acceptable.

Unless WE speak out, this draft proposal may be implemented. A map of proposed trails on the Mesa is attached. You can also find it at:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/Phase_3/proposed_action_draft_eastside_070806.pdf

Please help us work with the Forest Service to:

PRESERVE QUIET RECREATION by keeping the majority of the forest open to the majority who use it, i.e. those who want to enjoy the forest quietly through hiking, horseback riding and all other forms of quiet recreation, and who want to feel safe doing so, and for the ranchers whose livelihoods are impacted when livestock are at risk.

PROTECT NATURE. The Santa Fe National Forest already has the highest road density of any forest in the Southwest Region, and exceeds the Forest Service's own criteria. Roads and trails contribute significantly to compaction and erosion of soils, reduced water quality, disruption of wildlife and their habitat, and increased fire risk. We need to reduce road density and restrict recreational motorized vehicles to a sensible network of designated roads and trails.

PROTECT OUR CULTURAL RESOURCES. The Mesa has deep history and unique archaeological sites. These include petroglyphs from the so-called Early-Middle Archaic period, among the rarest and unusual in New Mexico, dating over 5000 years, which would be exposed to higher risks of depredation.

DEVELOP A SENSIBLE APPROACH TO OHVs by designating a specific area of the forest with effective protection to minimize environmental impact, fire risk, as well as impact on the communities who want to continue to live peacefully around the Mesa. Please:

1. Email your concerns to the Forest Service at sftravelmgt@fs.fed.us.
Or call: Robert Potts, Forest Planner (505) 438 7829
Daniel Jiron, Forest Supervisor (505) 438 7840
2. Forward this to others who have an interest in this matter.
3. Post this notice in public places to bring this matter to everyone's attention.

For more information, call: (505) 422 2288

