

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Santa Fe National Forest

For Immediate Release



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45-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD BEGINS

(SANTA FE, NM)— The Santa Fe National Forest Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement statement to manage motorized travel was published in the Federal Register today, July 17, 2008. “This initiates the 45-day public comment period that will run July 18 through September 2, 2008,” said Daniel Jiron Forest Supervisor.

The publishing of the NOI officially initiates “scoping”, the first step in the NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) process. These 45 days are for the public to provide information, to the agency, on resource issues and to identify significant issues with the proposed action. The agency will next develop alternative proposals, based on public input received. These alternatives will undergo full analysis of the environmental effects and a draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) will be prepared(usually about 8 to 12 months). At this time, the public will have another 45-day “notice and comment” period. Based on the analysis and public input, the agency will make a decision which will be published as a record of decision. The Forest plans to have the record of decision completed in 2009.

The Notice of Intent and Santa Fe National Forest’s Proposed Action for Managing Motorized Travel can be found on the Forest website:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/sfe/travelmgt/index.html> .

