



File Code: 1900-1/1300

Date: June 9, 2003

Bryan Bird
Sierra Club National Forest Campaign
P.O. Box 11236
7 Avenida Vista Grande # 173
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Dear Mr. Bird:

We received your request of April 7, 2003, requesting correction of information contained in the notice for proposed rulemaking for National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning (LRMP). Your request was submitted under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Information Quality Guidelines. You filed this Request for Correction along with John Muir Project of Earth Island Justice, Gifford Pinchot Task Force, National Forest Protection Alliance, and Heartwood. You also provided comments on the proposed National Forest Management Act (NFMA) planning rule.

Your request pertains to certain information used in support of and in justification for, the notice for proposed rulemaking for National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning published in the Federal Register on December 6, 2002, at pages 72770-72815, titled "National Forest System Land and Resource Management Planning; Proposed Rules." You requested that the Forest Service provide this information on the Forest Service web site and reopen the rulemaking comment period. The public rulemaking comment period was extended from March 6th to April 7th. The Forest Service does not currently plan to further extend the comment period.

The information you referred to and requested is contained in the publication, "A Business Evaluation of the 2000 and Proposed NFMA Planning Rules." This document provides the underpinning for the planning revisions under review. The report is available to the public at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/emc/nfma/index3.html>. A copy of our detailed report: "Land and Resource Management Planning: The Status of Activities" that was submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations, January 31, 2002 is enclosed for your use. Currently all ongoing and planned LRMP revision activities are being undertaken under the provisions of the 1982 NFMA planning rule.

Related to your comments on the proposed rule, the Forest Service is in the process of considering all responses received on the proposed rule. The agency's response will be forthcoming with the publication of the final rule expected this winter. The Forest Service believes the thorough consideration provided by the public comment process serves the purpose of the Information Quality Guidelines. This process also has the advantage of placing our response in the context of other comments in a venue that is familiar and accessible to the public.



After publication of the final rule you may submit a request for reconsideration, if you are dissatisfied with this decision. Details on how to file a request for reconsideration can be found on the USDA website: http://www.ocio.usda.gov/irm/qi_guide/index/html. The request for reconsideration should reference this letter and follow the “Procedures for Requesting Reconsideration of USDA’s Decision”. Please submit written material to support your case for reconsideration, and a copy of the information originally submitted to support the request for correction, and a copy of this response. Requests for Reconsideration filed after the 45-day deadline may be denied as untimely. All requests for reconsideration must be submitted by overnight delivery service, letter, fax, or email to:

USDA Forest Service
Data Quality Team Leader ORMS Staff
Mail Stop 1150 1S Yates Building
14th & Independence Avenue SW
Washington D.C. 20250-1150

Phone 202 205 2938
FAX 202 260 6539
Email gcontreras@fs.fed.us

If you should have additional questions, please contact Glen Contreras, Data Quality Team Leader at 202-205-2938, gcontreras@fs.fed.us, or DeAnn Zwight, Ecosystem Management Staff at 202-205-1347, dzwight@fs.fed.us. We appreciate your continued interest in Forest Service activities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Pamela Gardiner (for):
FREDERICK NORBURY
Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination

cc: DeAnn Zwight, Glen Contreras