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Dear Friends of the Rio Grande National Forest:

I am pleased to let you know that the Rio Grande National Forest Roads Analysis Report has been completed and is ready for public review and comment.

The Roads Analysis Report has been posted on the Rio Grande National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/planning/planning.htm. If you would like a printed copy please contact us at the following address: Rio Grande National Forest, 1803 West Highway 160, Monte Vista, CO 81144, telephone (719) 852-5941.

The Roads Analysis Report documents the information and analyses used to identify concerns and opportunities for the management of the Rio Grande National Forest road system. The report includes resource and road information in the form of discussion, tables, and maps. It displays information, risks, and values for each inventoried road and watershed on the Forest.

This forest-scale analysis is designed to provide decision-makers and the public with information to develop road systems that are safe and responsive to public needs and desires, are affordable and efficiently managed, have minimal negative ecological effects on the land, are in balance with available funding for needed management actions, and meet the objectives of the Forest Plan. It will be useful in identifying and prioritizing opportunities that address resource and/or road maintenance concerns. The report provides management guidelines and opportunities for future actions that may impact the Forest's road system. This analysis also provides the framework for future project-specific road analyses.

The analysis includes an assessment of:

- ◆ Effects of road management on environmental and social issues.
- ◆ Needs for transportation rights-of-way acquisitions.
- ◆ Integration with other agency and government transportation systems (e.g., state, county, and BLM roads) because the Forest Service road system connects to or has jurisdictional overlap with these roads.
- ◆ Transportation investments necessary to implement the Rio Grande Forest Plan and meet resource management goals and objectives.
- ◆ Current and projected funding levels available to support road construction, reconstruction, maintenance, and decommissioning.



Please note that this Roads Analysis is not a NEPA analysis with an action proposal resulting in a decision. Any project which constructs or changes management of the road system will require additional public scoping and involvement, and the appropriate level of NEPA analysis.

Your comments would be most useful to us if they were received by April 30, 2004. Public comment on the Roads Analysis Report will be included in Appendix H. The Roads Analysis is a part of the Rio Grande National Forest Public Road Atlas, which is a dynamic document meant to be revised as needed. Future public comments on road management will also be included in Appendix H.

I appreciate your interest and involvement in road management on the Rio Grande National Forest. If you would like more information on the Roads Analysis, please contact Bob Dalrymple, Forest Planner, at (719) 852-5941 or by email at rdalrymple@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Peter L. Clark
PETER L. CLARK
Forest Supervisor