

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

November 1, 2003

The attached is the Schedule of Proposed Actions (SOPA) for the Rio Grande National Forest and San Luis Resource Area. The schedule includes project proposals that we currently anticipate analyzing during the summer/fall of 2003.

This schedule is not a NEPA document, nor is it a solicitation for comments. Comments addressed to the schedule do not provide standing for appeal purposes. The purpose of the Schedule of Proposed Actions is to provide you with information on whom to contact should you wish to become involved through site-specific comments. This only provides enough information to enable you to contact the proper person to become involved in the analysis and decision process on the forest. Comments received by project leaders, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on the proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requestor of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within (xx) days.

We welcome your interest and participation. We also encourage your involvement in each project that you are interested in. Your participation is particularly helpful during the early stages of project formulation known as "scoping". It is during the "scoping" process that we define the Purpose and Need for the project, identify issues and define the extent of analysis that is needed. All projects are scoped separately from this SOPA. If you identify a project or projects that you are interested in, please contact the ID Team Leader shown on the schedule and provide project specific comments.

On January 19, 2001, the Chief's Office issued a decision on Appeal #97-13-00-0057 of the Record of Decision for the Rio Grande National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan. Subsequently, the Secretary issued a discretionary review decision of the Chief's appeal decision on March 29, 2001. All Forest decisions on proposed actions must be consistent with the Secretary's review decision. Issuance of a Forest decision will be guided by the Secretary's instructions and public comment.

If you want to be added to the mailing list for this SOPA, please contact Leon Montoya at the address listed inside this packet for the Supervisor's Office of the Rio Grande National Forest or e-mail our office at mailroom_r2_rio_grande@fs.fed.us. This document can be seen on our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande/planning.htm>.

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**USDA Forest Service
Rio Grande National Forest**

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PLANNING

<p>Response to the Secretary of Agriculture's Discretionary Review of the Forest Service Chief's Decision on the Revised Forest Plan Appeal #97-13-00-0057</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Review of projects for sufficient protection of species viability. 2) The Forest was directed to correct the following deficiencies in the Revised forest Plan and FEIS: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A.) Amend the Revised Forest Plan to incorporate MIS into the plan, add monitoring protocols for the selected MIS, and to add scientific literature cites used to determine habitat needs, distribution, and trends of sensitive species and MIS. B.) Expand display of habitat effects for a Longer period of time. C.) Develop a new livestock grazing suitability determination. D.) Expand display of environmental effects. E.) Comply with Section 505 of FLPMA. F.) Wilderness fish stocking amendment. <p align="center">Contact ROBERT DALRYMPLE (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office</p> <p>This analysis is an inventory and assessment of</p>	<p align="center">On-going.</p> <p>Public Scoping completed on December 21, 2001. The EA for Comment was released in March 2003. Public notice of decision expected November 2003.</p> <p>The analysis was completed in 2003</p> <p>The analysis is expected to be completed by November 2003.</p> <p>The analysis is scheduled for completion by November 2003.</p> <p>Errata sheet completed on December 19, 2001.</p> <p>The 1998 wilderness amendment meets the intent of the Secretary's decision. The Regional Office resolution of the appeal and completion of the BE/BA is scheduled to be complete in 2003.</p>
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Forest Roads Analysis	<p>the inventoried roads on the Rio Grande National Forest. It will provide information to develop and maintain a road system which is safe and responsive to public needs and desires, effectively managed and balanced with available funding, has minimal negative ecological effects on the land and meets the objective of the forest plan. This analysis is not a decision document, rather it will be used to support future analysis and decisions.</p> <p>Contact ROBERT DALRYMPLE (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office</p>	Analysis will be available for comment in January 2004
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<p>Programmatic Assessments for Various Recreation Projects</p>	<p>The Revised Rio Grande Land and Resource Management Plan provides management direction, standards and guidelines and desired conditions for the Forest's recreation program</p> <p>To be consistent with the Forest Plan direction and comply with the current terrestrial species status, the Forest plans to do programmatic assessments and decisions that address:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Scheduled Deferred Maintenance Projects. FY02 projects include: (1) Big Meadow Water System; (2) Forest Toilet Replacement (Buffalo Pass CG, Elk Creek CG, Trujillo Meadows Res and Tucker Ponds Fishing Area); (3) Toilet installation at South Fork Guard Station; and (4) Dam repair work at Spectacle Lake. FY03 projects are: (1) Platoro Guard Station Bunkhouse and water system maintenance and (2) Highway Spring well. FY04 projects are: (1) Forest campground water system upgrades (Lake Fork, Lost Trail and POSO Campgrounds); (2) Hansen Mill TH toilet replacement; (3) Love Lake and Jumper Lake Maintenance work, and (4) Creede Office furnace replacement. FY05 projects are: (1) Creede Administrative Site septic system upgrade; (2) Forest campground water system upgrade (Alamosa CG and Big Springs PA), and (3) Forest Toilet Replacement (Spectacle Lake CG and Fern Creek TH). 2.) Short Term Special Uses. This assessment will cover a variety of activities (weddings, races, events) that involves occupancy or use of National Forest System Lands of a temporary nature (either 4-8 hours to 1-2 day events) and are consistent with the Forest Plan. 3.) Winter Use Capacity. Plan amendment tiered to tiered to the Forest Plan capacity allocation process that will establish service days for commercial, institutional and public winter use on the Rio Grande NF. <p>For further information regarding these proposed actions, contact GREG THOMPSON at the Supervisor's Office (719) 852-5941</p>	<p>Anticipated completion by November, 2003</p> <p>Anticipated Completion by November, 2003</p> <p>Spring 2004</p>
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WIMPS	<p>Programmatic analysis for watershed improvements. This project will conduct an environmental analysis for the various methods of protecting soil, water and fisheries resources through land and other treatments. Check dams, bank stabilization, revegetation, soil aeration, soil stabilization, fish structures, and other techniques will be analyzed. Contact JOHN RAWINSKI, Supervisor's Office, (719) 852-5941.</p>	EA for comments will be available in the winter of 2003.
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TRAILS

BLANCA/ELLINGWOOD	This project involves relocation and improvement on the access trail	
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AND LITTLE BEAR PEAKS	to these popular peaks in the Sangre de Cristo's. Project location is approximately 8 miles NW of the town of Blanca. JIM HONG, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Project put on hold.
MOON PASS OHV TRAILHEAD IMPROVEMENT	Project involves grading, shaping and definition of existing parking areas for South Carnero Trail, Miners Trail, and Bowers Peak Trail. Gravel surface may be applied and trailhead signs installed. Contact KRISTI MURPHY (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Project implementation in Summer 2004
CHAMA BASIN TRAILS	This project involves rehabilitation of gullies across Trail 124 and creating switchbacks in a steep section of Trail 741 to control erosion. JIM HONG, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	NEPA complete. Implementation in summer 2004
CRESTONE PEAK/ NEEDLE TRAIL IMPROVEMENT	This project consists of evaluating a desirable route to the top of Crestone Peak & Crestone Needle. Existing braided routes would be rehabbed, erosion controlled, and re-vegetated. The more desirable routes to the mountaintops would be delineated. These peaks are located in the Sangre De Cristo Wilderness just east and slightly south of the Town of Crestone. Primitive means are required for this trail work. Contact KRISTI MURPHY, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District	NEPA work CY '04 and project implementation CY '05

RANGE

CANON ALLOTMENT AMP	Environmental Analysis for an Allotment Management Plan on the Canon C&H Allotment. Location is the Rio Grande drainage above Rio Grande Reservoir, including West Lost Trail Creek, portions of Bear Creek and Pole Creek. GILBERT BECENTI, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Release EA for comments January 2004.
SOUTH SAN JUAN WILDERNESS S&G	Environmental Analysis for the Jarosa Mesa, Dipping Lakes, Bancos Alazon, Glacier Lake, Twin Lakes, Roaring Fork, Saddle Creek & Mesa S&G Allotments. One EA and several Allotment Management Plans will be prepared for these allotments. These sheep allotments are located within the South San Juan Wilderness on the Conejos Peak Ranger District. Contact DEAN ERHARD, (719) 852-5941. Supervisor's Office,	Scoping out for fall 2003. Spring 2004, "EA for comment"
FOX CREEK, C&H ALLOTMENT	Environmental Analysis for Allotment Management Plan for the Fox Creek cattle allotment located along Fox Creek drainage north of Magote, Colorado. Will be re-combined with the Long Park and Big Meadows C&H allotments. KELLY GARCIA (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Fall/Winter 2004 "EA for comment".
SULPHUR C&H AMP	Environmental Analysis for an Allotment Management Plan to be prepared for Sulphur Cattle and Horse Allotment located southwest of Creede, CO in the Trout Creek drainage. GILBERT BECENTI (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Scoping November 2003.
ALDER/SILVER ALLOTMENT EA	Environmental Analysis for an Allotment Management Plan to be reviewed for the Alder Silver Allotment located north of Saguache, CO. LAMAR TAYLOR, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	EA completed & delayed due to reversal.
CONEJOS CANYON ALLOTMENT ANALYSIS	Environmental Analysis and Allotment Management Plan for Conejos Canyon grazing Allotment. Located between Orca, CO and Conejos River Ranch, west into South San Juan Wilderness. T34N, R4E, R5E. GARY SNELL (719)274-8971 Conejos Peak Ranger District.	In planning
PLATORO ANALYSIS	EA and AMP for Platoro Allotment which is located adjacent to Platoro Reservoir, East to Silver Lakes, T 36N, R4 & 5E. KELLY GARCIA (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Scoping out fall 2003. "EA for Comment" Spring 2004
TRIANGLE SPRINGS DEVELOPMENT	Water to be developed for Platoro and Cat Creek Allotments with additional development for wildlife. T36N, R6E., Sec 12. KELLY GARCIA (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	CE in progress expected completion fall 2003
ALDER C&H ALLOTMENT	Environmental Analysis for Allotment Management Plan preparation for the Alder C&H Allotment, located in the Sangre de Cristo range from Poncha Pass south to Hayden Pass (North East of Villa Grove, CO). Contact LAMAR TAYLOR 719-655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	New project will start in 2004
NOTCH TRAIL DRIFT FENCE, ROUGH CREEK C&H ALLOTMENT	Prevent drift of cattle between the Rough Creek Allotment and the Conejos Cattle Allotment (T33N, R5E, South ½ Sec 32). Contact GARY SNELL, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak District	On Hold.
ARCHULETA CHAMA BASIN AREA ANALYSIS	Look at Recreation, Travel Management, Grazing issues, Conflicts, opportunities to arrive at solutions to resource issues. JIM HONG (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District	Fall/Winter 2003/2004

SAGUACHE DISTRICT RANGE IMPROVEMENTS	Projects will be scoped individually as needed and evaluated prior to initiation. LAMAR TAYLOR, (719) 655-2547, SAGUACHE RANGER DISTRICT.	Ongoing
HANDKERCHIEF RANGE	Environmental Analysis for 5 range allotments (Cattle Mountain, Church, Little Beaver, Cross Creek and Handkerchief C&H Allotment). Contact TRISTRAM POST, Divide Ranger District, (719) 657-3321	Scoping to be November 2003
SPANISH CREEK-MANN CREEK CORRALS	Proposal to construct each on the Spanish Creek and Canero Allotments for livestock handling. Expect CE for this project. Contact LAMAR TAYLOR, (719)655-2547 Saguache Ranger District.	In planning Anticipated NEPA Spring 2004

TIMBER

HANDKERCHIEF MESA ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	Proposal to manage timber and road resources in the Handkerchief Mesa Landscape, with various treatments including harvesting of 10 to 13 MMBF of timber, timber stand improvement, prescribed burning, and road management. Area runs from South Fork to the Continental Divide, from Highway 160 and Wolf Creek Pass (on West) to Beaver Mountain, Willow Park and Crystal Lakes (on East). Range has been eliminated from this EA. STEVE BRIGHAM (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Project will be reevaluated after the amendment of the Land Management Plan.
BLACK MOUNTAIN TIMBER SALE	Proposal to harvest approximately 2 MMBF of timber in the Jarosa analysis area. The Jarosa Analysis area is located about 25 miles west of Creede, Colorado on Highway 149 in Hinsdale County. The area is located south of Spring Pass and East and West of Highway 149. Contact STEVE BRIGHAM (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Scoping expected in Fall 2004 or following amendment of the LMP.
MILLION SALVAGE	EA for salvage of 2 MMBF of timber in the Million Fire burn area near South Fork, T39N, R3E, Sec. 2. Contact STEVE BRIGHAM, (719) 852-5941, Monte Vista Supervisors Office.	Final decision expected November 2003
MISC. SMALL SALES-SAGUACHE	The district will look at treatment of insects and diseases infested trees thru; Small timber sales, Post and Pole sales, and Firewood sales located at; Browns/Mill Creek, Duck Pond, Bear creek, Spanish Creek, and Fullerton Park. The district will analyze each area using the District Small Sales EA. Contact Jack Lewis, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Scoping for Saw Timber Sales expected early 2004
CONEJOS CANYON BEETLE TREATMENT	Beetle treatment within Conejos Canyon Corridor/Campgrounds (Aspen Glade/Magote). Contact PAUL MINOW (719) 274-8971 Conejos Peak Ranger District.	In progress and ongoing.
ANTELOPE SALVAGE	Proposal to Manage Insect & Disease Infestations and fuels in the Antelope Creek area. Analyze using District Small Sales EA. Small Sales EA check list started. Contact JACK LEWIS, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Range District	Checklist completed. Project implementation late fall
COUNTY LINE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	Proposal to manage beetle infested timber in an 1800 acre analysis area and to manage other stands in the analysis to create conditions less susceptible to insects and disease infestations. Proposal would result in the harvest of approx. 20 MMBF of timber and may require up to 0.1 miles of new road construction. The analysis area is located about 2 miles Northwest of Cumbres Pass on the Conejos Peak Ranger District. Contact JOHN MURPHY (719)852-5941, Monte Vista Supervisory Office.	Scoping completed in 2003. EA for comment in February 2004.

LANDS

SMALL TRACTS ACT CASES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slack, Sec 35, T 42N, R1W, NMPM, Mineral County • Nolen , Sec 22, T42N, R4E, NMPM, Saguache County • STA Interchange, Union Minere, Sec 21 & 22, T36N, R4E, NMPM, Conejos County • Getz, Sec 36, T41N, R5W, NMPM, Hinsdale County Contact PAT PRENTICE, (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office	Ongoing. Transactions reviewed prior to final approval.
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PRIVATE ROAD EASEMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baker - T37N, R5E, Sec. 1, 2, 11, 12, 30,31 & 32, Rio Grande County Brady - T32N, R4E, Sec. 1, Conejos County Contact PAT PRENTICE, (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office	Ongoing
LAND EXCHANGE RIO OXBOW	The proposed exchange involves land located in: T40N, R1W and R2W, and T41N R1W, NMPM, Mineral County, Colorado (Federal Land) T38N, R6E, NMPM Rio Grande County, Colorado (Non-Federal Land) Carson Mining District, NMPM, Hinsdale County, Colorado (Non-Federal Land) PAT PRENTICE (719) 852-5941. Supervisors Office	Decision expected fall 2003
HOT CREEK ACQUISITION	Proposed acquisition of the Hot Creek Parcels – T35N, R6E, Sec 12 Contact PAT PRENTICE, (719) 852-5941. Supervisor's Office	Ongoing
EDUCATIONAL LAND GRANT	Educational Land Grant is for Creede Consolidated School District. T42N, R1E, Sec.36, Mineral County, CO. Contact PAT PRENTICE (719)852-5941 Supervisor's Office.	Pending

FUELS

ALPINE HYDRO AXE	Initiate NEPA scoping of hazardous fuels mitigation projects around Alpine developments. 400 acres in T 40N, R3E, Sec 24, and T40N, R4E, Sec 19. Contact GUY KEENE, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Initiate scoping and evaluation Winter 2003, Spring 2004.
CONEJOS RIVER WILDLAND/URBAN PROJECT	Initiate NEPA scoping of hazardous fuels mitigation projects around Conejos River corridor developments. Contact BILL JOSLIN, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Initiate scoping and evaluation Winter 2003 Spring 2004
CATHEDRAL THINNING	Thinning out dense Ponderosa Pine understory to reduce fuels and prepare the site for prescribed burn. T41N, R4E. Sec 19 and T41 N, R3E. Sec 24. Contact either JIM GRIFFIN at the Supervisor's Office (719) 852-6276 or GUY KEENE, (719) 657-3321 Divide Ranger District.	CE expected June 2004.
GALL RUST VEGETATION TREATMENT	Mechanically thin Lodgepole pine sapling stand infested with Western Gall Rust for disease control, lynx habitat improvement and fuels reduction. T46N, R4E, Sec 35. Contact JACK LEWIS, (719) 655-2547. Saguache Ranger District,	Project completed October 2003
COCHETOPA HILLS	Proposal to analyze at the landscape sale, forest health issues affecting forest and range lands in the Cochetopa Hills area. Analysis will look at multiple use treatments that are designed to reduce fuels; improve wildlife habitat and provide forest products. Contact Dwight Irwin, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Scoping expected early 2004
BUFFALO PASS/ ANTELOPE FUELS REDUCTION	Variety of treatments to reduce stand density. Field trip first week of November, date to be announced by Sid Hall. T45N, R4E, Sec3. Contact SID HALL, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District	Analysis started
SAW WORK JACOBS HILL	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine as the dominant species, to improve big game winter range. T36N, R6E, Sec.25,36 Contact BILL JOSLIN, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak RD	Scoping spring 2004
COLD SPRINGS FUELS REDUCTION	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine as the dominant species, to improve big game winter range, reduce the risk of an extreme fire event, protect the inherent resources, and decrease the fire risk to surrounding private property. T32N, R7E, portions of sections 3, 4, and 10; T33N, R7E, portions of sections 33 and 32. ACRES: 922. Contact BILL JOSLIN, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District,	CE Decision Memo signed August 6, 2003
RITO HONDO FUELS REDUCTION	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine/grass savannah as the dominant vegetation type. Other goals from the CE include improving big game winter range, reduce the risk of an extreme fire event, protect the inherent resources, and decrease the fire risk to surrounding private property. T32N, R7E, portions of section 10. (142 acres) Contact BILL JOSLIN, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District	CE Decision Memo signed August 6, 2003
SCHILLING SPRINGS FUELS REDUCTION	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine as the dominant species. Other goals from the CE include improving big game winter range, reduce the risk of an extreme fire event, protect the inherent resources, and decrease the fire risk to surrounding private property. T36N, R6E, portions of sections 11, 12, 13, and 14. ACRES: 852 Contact BILL JOSLIN, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District	CE Decision Memo signed August 6, 2003

MECHANICAL TREATMENT JACOBS HILL	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine as the dominant species, to improve big game winter range. T36N, R6E, Sec.25,36 Contact BILL JOSLIN, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak RD	Scoping spring 2004
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SPECIAL USES

CENTURY TEL COMMUNICATION INC & US WEST	The proposal concerns installation of buried telephone lines Forest wide for new service or upgrade to existing lines. Each project is scoped individually as contacts are made. Contact PAT PRENTICE (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office,	Ongoing.
SAN LUIS VALLEY REC	Electrical line extensions and/or upgrades to existing lines (T42N, R1W). The proposed projects will provide electric service to private landowners. Each project is scoped individually as contacts are made. Contact PAT PRENTICE, (719)852-5941, Supervisor's Office	Ongoing.
DOMESTIC WELL TO BE DRILLED AT SUMMER HOME	Proposal from permitted summer home owner David Silva to drill a domestic well and pipe the water to the cabin. The cabin is located on the Forest between South Fork and Wagon Wheel Gap in T40N, R2E, Sec 11. The well permit and water rights would be in the name of the USFS for a maximum of 15 gallons per minute. The well would replace an antiquated cistern that gathers runoff behind the cabin. Contact RONNIE DAY, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District,	Scoping completed. Pending decision memo.
SAN LUIS VALLEY REC AND CENTURY TEL	Installation of underground telephone and electric lines in T42N, R1W, Sec24. Contact PAT PRENTICE, (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office.	Ongoing
NORTH CRESTONE GAGING STATION	Relocate (install new) gaging station on North Crestone Creek to a location near lower campsite (camp site #13) and remove old gaging station. Colorado Division of Water Resources is proponent and needs to replace existing gage because it is ineffective during high flows. T 44N, R12E, Sec 31. Contact KRISTI MURPHY, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Project may move to private land.
SLV REC	The proposal involves placement of an underground electric line in Sec 24, T42N, R1W, NMPM, Mineral County. Contact PAT PRENTICE, (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office,.	Ongoing
DOMESTIC WELL TO BE RE-DRILLED AT SUMMER HOME	Proposal from permitted summer home owner Herbert Noelke to re-drill an existing well. The cabin is in the Rio Grande Box Canyon Summer Home Group locate in T41N, R3W, Sec25, Hinsdale County. Contact RONNIE DAY (719) 657-3321. Divide Ranger District.	Scoping Underway
CDOT WETLAND MITIGATION	Proposed issuance of an amendment for a special use permit that will be used for mitigation. T39N, R3E, Sec.9, Rio Grande County. Contact PAT PRENTICE (719) 852-5941 Supervisor's Office.	Implementation scheduled for 2003
SLV REC AND CENTURY TEL	Proposal for power and phone lines in the Windy Gulch area near Creede, CO. T42N, R1W, Sec. 24 Contact PAT PRENTICE (719) 852-5941 Supervisor's Office.	Implementation scheduled for 2003
CDOT WATER WITHDRAWL	Proposal to withdraw water from the Rio Grande River at a waste area on Hwy 160. Contact PAT PRENTICE (719) 852-5941 Supervisor's Office.	Implementation scheduled for 2003
SNOTEL	Proposal to construct the snow monitoring device near Greyback Mountain. Construction would be planned for summer 2004 and includes an instrument shelter, a 12 foot antenna tower, and a snow pillow pad. , T37N, R4E, Sec. 10, NMPM. Contact RON DAY (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	NEPA ongoing, Scoping fall 2003
SNOWMOBILE POKER RUN	Proposal to have the annual poker run sponsored by the South Fork Powder Busters Snowmobile Club. This is s one day event proposed for February 2004. The courses are on groomed trails already under a special use grooming permit. Expected participants are between 40-60. T38N, R4E, and T39N, R4E. FSR 360,359,350. Contact Ron Day, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	NEPA ongoing, Scoping fall 2003
LUJAN CREEK SNOWTEL SITE INSTALLATION	The NRCS proposes to install a snow precipitation measuring station (Snowtel) on or near Cochetopa Pass. Plans would call for utilization of an existing suitable cleared opening that would then have solar powered satellite connectivity and the site would be fenced. Data is necessary for predicting spring runoff, possible forest fire danger and stream flows. Contact KRISTI MURPHY, (719)655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	NEPA work winter 2004 and installation summer 2005.

MINERALS

DIVIDE RANGER DISTRICT ABANDONED MINE CLOSURES	The Colorado Division of Minerals and Geology will close two abandoned mines. One shaft is on Wolf Creek Pass and one shaft is in Miners Creek. Sites will either be backfilled or closed using a bat-compatible gate. Contact DIANN GESE (719) 657-6025, Divide Ranger District	Analysis in progress. Expected completion fall 2003.
COTTON CREEK ABANDONED MINE CLOSURES	The Colorado Division of Minerals & Geology south of Cotton Creek will close 12 abandoned mines. Sites will either be back-filled or closed using a bat-compatible gate. Contact DIANN GESE, (719) 657-6025, Divide Ranger District	Analysis in progress. Expected completion fall 2003
RED BUTTE EXPLORATION ROADS RECLAMATION	The Red Butte Exploration Roads Reclamation is located on the Conejos Peak Ranger District which will involve the reclamation of mining exploration roads located in T37N, R3E, Sec.25. Contact DIANE GESE, (719)657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Analysis in progress

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES

SCHRADER CREEK MECHANICAL TREATMENT	Partnership project designed to improve big game winter range by reducing density of pinyon-juniper and wildland urban interface fuels reduction. Year I done and Year II in planning. T 39N, R5E, Sec 20. DALE GOMEZ, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	CE completed. Implementation. In 2004
CONEJOS RIVER/FOX CREEK BIGHORN SHEEP HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	Project would open up underbrush increasing sight distance for bighorn sheep. Approximately 50 acres would be treated to improve habitat. SUE SWIFT-MILLER, (719) 274-8971. Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Project completed.
ASPEN REGENERATION ENCLOSURES	Project to build enclosures to study aspen regeneration on Conejos Peak Ranger District. SUE SWIFT-MILLER, (719) 274-8971. Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Project underway
LAKE FORK BARRIER REPAIR	Project to repair existing structures. Contact SUE SWIFT-MILLER, (719) 274-8971. Conejos Peak Ranger District,	Project underway
CECILIAN WILDLIFE WATER DEVELOPMENT	A proposal to install a wildlife water development below a spring near the head of Fence Creek, west of Storm King Mountain, T43N, R5E, Sec 19. The small (10 foot in diameter) catch basin will be approximately 3 feet in depth. Contact DWIGHT IRWIN, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District	Completed
BEAR CREEK MULE DEER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	Project consists of pruning over mature Mountain Mahogany to encourage it to re-sprout and reducing density of encroaching conifers. (WUI Project) T40N, R3E, Sec15. Contact DALE GOMEZ, (719)657-3321, Divide Ranger District	In planning stage. CE expected by March 2004
NORTH 40 WATER DEVELOPMENT	Combination of spring developments and water improvements for wildlife. Project will be located near Old Women's Creek/Natural Arch area. T41N, R5E, Sec. 13,14,15,22,23,25. Contact DALE GOMEZ, (719)657-3321,Divide Ranger District	In planning stage. CE expected by May 2004
CHURCH CREEK WILLOW PLANTING	Project consists of planting willows to stabilize the bank on Church Creek. T39N, R3E, Sec2,11. Contact BARRY WILEY, (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office.	Implementation August 2003

WATERSHED & SOIL PROJECTS

CALIFORNIA GULCH AND MINERS CREEK SOIL AND WATER IMPROVEMENT	Minor stream/road culvert repair and relocating and minor road/stream-crossing relocation. Project designed to reduce sediment going into streams and realign to natural stream course. Contact Tom Goodwin, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	NEPA Spring 2003 as needed to supplement Programmatic. Implement in 2005.
CONEJOS PEAK WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	Multiple erosion control projects located on Conejos Peak Ranger District in the following areas: Jacobs Hill area, Massey Gulch, Red Mountain, Rough Creek, Pinorealosa, E-N Osier, Wolf Creek Includes rehab projects, gully work, sub-soiler work. Contact JIM HONG, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	NEPA scheduled for fall/winter 2003. Ongoing
TWISTER SUBSOILING	Project to continue work to alleviate soil compaction. Contact GILBERT BECENTI, (719) 657-3321, Divide RD	NEPA completed. Implementation 2004

RECREATION

MIX LAKE HANDICAP ACCESS PROJECT	Project to improve accessibility at Mix Lake. May include hardened trail, fishing pier, and installation of accessible toilet. SUE SWIFT-MILLER, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District	Project on hold
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RECREATION

SPECTACLE LAKE HANDICAP ACCESS PROJECT	Project to improve accessibility at Spectacle Lake. May include; hardened trail, fishing pier, installation of handicap accessible toilet, dam repair, and wetland restoration. Contact SUE SWIFT-MILLER, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Scoping underway.
ELK CREEK CAMPGROUND REHABILITATION	Reconstruction of parts of existing campground units, pressurized water system, minor road improvement work. No expansion. JIM HONG, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Scoping and NEPA underway.Scheduled for 2004.
ADVANTURE RACE	Divide RD has received a proposal for a one day adventure race to take place between Wolf Creek Ski Area and Beaver Creek Reservoir on roads and trails. Contact STEVE BRIGHAM, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Draft application Received
MIX LAKE CAMPGROUND WATER SYSTEM REHAB.	Project is located on the Conejos Peak Ranger District at the Mix Lake Campground near Platoro. The project consists of drilling a water well and replacing the water distribution system at the campground. Contact JIM HONG, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak RD	NEPA underway
CONEJOS CAMPGROUND BANK STABILIZATION & FISHERIES HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	Project includes bank stabilization and to provide fish habitat structures on the Conejos River locate at the Conejos Campground. T34N, R5E, Sec.19 Contact GREG THOMPSON, (719) 852-5941, Supervisors Office	Analysis/Scoping Underway
PLATORO WORK STATION WATER SYSTEM REHAB	Project includes installation/replacing of the water system at the Platoro Work Station. Location T36N, R4E, Sec.22. Contact STAN MATTINGLY, (719) 852-5941Supervisors Office	NEPA Analysis in progress

New notice, comment and appeal procedures for national forest system projects and activities have been published and are effective as of June 4, 2003 under 36 Code of Federal Regulations part 215 (36 CFR 215). The new regulations provide for a process by which the public receives notice and is provided an opportunity to comment on proposed actions for projects and activities implementing a land and resource management plan prior to a decision. The appeal process is available to those who submit substantive comments during the comment period. The new regulations also provide for acceptance of electronic comments. The addresses for submitting electronic comments during the comment period for the Rio Grande National Forest are as follows: Comments-rockymtn-riogrande@fs.fed.us; comments-rockymtn-riogrande-conejospeak@fs.fed.us; comments-rockymtn-riogrande-divide@fs.fed.us; and comments-rockymtn-saguache@fs.fed.us. If the sender does not receive an automated acknowledgment of the receipt of the comments, it is the sender's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. The regulations also provide for electronically mailed appeals, if the appellant does not receive an automated acknowledgement of the receipt of the appeal, it is the appellant's responsibility to ensure timely receipt by other means. The address for submitting electronic appeals for decisions made by District Rangers on the Rio Grande National Forest is: appeals-rockymtn-riogrande@fs.fed.us. Comments will also continue to be accepted by fax, mail, or orally.

BLM SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS
San Luis Resource Area



North Half
Saguache Field Office
46525 W. Hwy 114
Saguache, CO 81149
Voice: (719) 655-2547
TDD: (719) 655-2547
Ext. 35

The **Saguache Field Office** (FO) is soliciting public comments on the renewal of **3** grazing permits as part of a landscape health assessment during **2004**. We need to determine the level of public interest, concern, and resource conditions on each of the allotments up for assessment and renewal. Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Using the comments and all other available information, the team will evaluate the following **three allotments for compliance with the standards for rangeland health**.

Following are the **three allotments and acreages** identified in the FO that we are soliciting input for rangeland health assessments. For comments or questions please contact Chris Robbins, Saguache Field Office (719) 655-2547

RANGE

Name	Federal Acreage
Spring Creek Ind.	99
Rabbit Canyon	3,865
McIntyre Gulch	4,408

South Half
LaJara Field Office
15571 County Road T.5
LaJara, CO 81140
Voice: (719) 274-8971
TDD: (719) 274-3139

FUELS

SAW WORK JACOBS HILL BLM	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine as the dominant species, to improve big game winter range. T36N, R7E, Sec.21, NE1/4. Contact BRIAN GARCIA, Supervisors Office, (719) 852-5941	ID Team & scoping spring 2004
MECHANICAL TREATMENT JACOBS HILL BLM	The project/goal is to reduce juniper and pinon encroachment, with the long-term goal of re-establishing ponderosa pine as the dominant species, to improve big game winter range. T36N, R7E, Sec.21, NE1/4 Contact BRIAN GARCIA, Supervisors Office, (719) 852-5941	ID Team & scoping spring 2004

RANGE

7 grazing permits will expire during FY 2004 (10/1/03 to 9/30/04). To process the renewal of these permits we would like the public to identify any issues, concerns or resource conditions on the allotment(s) associated with the permits, to assist us in prioritizing the work. If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a health of the land assessment, please contact Melissa Shawcroft, Conejos Peak Field Office 719-274-8971 with any comments or questions.

Permits that are scheduled for renewal in FY 2004 on the following grazing allotments:

Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Permittee/Lessee	County
Poso Allotment	2,240 acres	2J Ranches	Conejos
Schrader Creek	640 acres	Robert Kernan	Rio Grande
Raton Creek	3,935 acres	Rim Rock Ranch	Rio Grande
Llano	5,255 acres	Ernest & Dennis Moeller	Conejos
RaJadero Canyon	6,210	Roberto Marquez	Conejos
Capulin	7,600	George Gallegos	Conejos
Romero Canyon	2,000	George Gallegos	Conejos
RaJadero Canyon	6,210	George Gallegos	Conejos
County Line	200 acres	Klecker Ranches	Rio Grande
Indian Head	400 acres	Klecker Ranches	Rio Grande
Nicomodes	1,960 acres	Klecker Ranches	Rio Grande
Refuge	480 acres	Klecker Ranches	Rio Grande

