



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

R3 Regional Office

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File Code: 1920

Date: October 21, 2003

Greetings:

In June 2001, the USDA Forest Service, Southwestern Region developed a proposal outlining its intent to amend the eleven National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans in New Mexico and Arizona. The purpose for the amendment was to modify standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk within wildland-urban interface areas and to emphasize management of wildland-urban interface areas throughout the southwest.

The proposal was sent to over 900 potentially affected and interested people, agencies, and organizations in June and July 2001, and was posted on the Southwestern Regional Office web page. On August 7, 2001, a Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement to amend National Forest Land and Resource Management Plans was published in the Federal Register (Federal Register, Vol. 66, No. 152 / Tuesday, August 7, 2001).

During the analysis process, it became apparent that the need to amend forest plans varied from forest to forest throughout the region. As such, it was determined that a region-wide amendment of all forest plans was not necessary. However, those individual forests that retain a need to amend their respective plans to modify standards and guidelines for Mexican spotted owl and northern goshawk within wildland-urban interface areas may do so, on a case-by-case basis. As the forests of the Southwestern Region will begin the Forest Plan revision process in Fiscal Year 2004, forests will be able to address this need in context with other resource and social issues.

For your information, we have attached the cancellation notice that was published in the Federal Register (Federal Register, Vol. 68, No. 196 / Thursday, October 9, 2003). We thank you for your interest in the management of the National Forests in the Southwestern Region and appreciate the input you provided in this analysis. Your comments will be made available to the individual forests should they identify a need to pursue amending their respective forest plans for wildlife urban interface areas.

Sincerely,

/s/ Abel M. Camarena (for)
HARV FORSGREN
Regional Forester

Enclosure: Cancellation NOI

cc: pdl r3 planners, Peter T Gaulke, Patrick L Jackson, Roy A Hall



