

Notices

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This section of the FEDERAL REGISTER contains documents other than rules or proposed rules that are applicable to the public. Notices of hearings and investigations, committee meetings, agency decisions and rulings, delegations of authority, filing of petitions and applications and agency statements of organization and functions are examples of documents appearing in this section.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Southwestern Region, Arizona, New Mexico, West Texas and Oklahoma Proposed Projects in the Agua/Caballos Analysis Area, Carson National Forest, Rio Arriba County, NM

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Carson National Forest, El Rito Ranger District is preparing a supplement to the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) to disclose new information relevant to the analysis of proposed projects in the Agua/Caballos analysis area. Proposed projects include the allocation of old growth, harvesting of trees for sawtimber and forest products, prescribed burning, thinning, construction of new roads and reconstruction or closure of existing roads. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement was published in the **Federal Register** on April 22, 1997 (62 FR 195342). A Notice of Availability for the DEIS was published in the **Federal Register** on February 19, 1999 (64 FR 8356).

After further verification on the ground, Alternative C (the preferred alternative) was found to have more miles of new road construction, and Alternatives D and E were found to have more miles of reconstruction, than what was described and analyzed in the DEIS. These new road figures are expected to change the effects analyses for alternatives C-E, especially those associated with soils and watershed. The supplement will disclose the new miles of road construction and reconstruction for alternatives C-F and any environmental consequences related to these new figures. In addition, the supplement will add a new

alternative (Alternative G) and its effects to the analysis. Alternative G is being developed in response to comments received from the public on the DEIS.

DATES: It is estimated that the supplement will be completed and distributed by the end of January, 2000. A 45 day comment period will follow. The final environmental impact statement is estimated to be released in April, 2000.

ADDRESSES: The supplement will be available upon request from the Carson Forest Supervisor's Office, 208 Cruz Alta Road, Taos, NM 87571, Attn: Planning. Comments related to the supplement can be sent to the same address.

Responsible Official: The Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest, is the responsible official and will decide whether or not projects will be implemented by the Forest Service in the Agua/Caballos analysis area. If so, the Forest Supervisor will decide what projects and where, how and when they will be implemented.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Forest Planner, Carson Forest Supervisor's Office (505) 758-6200.

Dated: December 8, 1999.

Gilbert Vigil,

Forest Supervisor, Carson National Forest.

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Copper Mountain Resort Trails and Facilities Improvements Plan White River National Forest—Summit County, Colorado

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

SUMMARY: The USDA Forest Service will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to disclose the anticipated environmental effects of Copper Mountain Resort's (CMR) proposed Trails and Facilities Improvements Plan. The proposed development includes the replacement and upgrading of two existing lifts, development of two new lifts, expanding on-mountain snowmaking coverage, creation of additional skiing

trails and glades, the renovation and expansion of an existing on-mountain restaurant, construction of a snow-vehicle maintenance shop with fuel storage, the development of two skier warming facilities, and upgrading one existing ski patrol facility.

The agency gives notice of the full environmental analysis and decision-making process that will occur on the proposal so that interested and affected individuals may become aware of how they may participate in the process and contribute to the final decision.

DATES: Comments concerning the proposal and environmental analysis should be received by January 21, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments concerning this proposal to Michael Liu, Special Project Coordinator, Dillon Ranger District, P.O. BOX 620, Silverthorne, Colorado, 80498. Fax: 970 468-7735. E-mail: Liu_Mike/r2_whiteriver@fs.fed.us.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Direct questions about the proposed action and EIS to Michael Liu, Special Project Coordinator, Dillon Ranger District, P.O. BOX 620, Silverthorne, Colorado, 80498. Phone: 970 262-3440.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The proposed action would increase recreational opportunities at Copper Mountain Resort while remaining within the existing Special Use Permit Boundary. Presently, alpine skiing/snowboarding and other resort activities are provided to the public through a Special Use Permit (SUP) issued by the U.S. Forest Service and administered by the White River National Forest (WRNF). Many of the proposed projects have been conceptually approved through previous National Environmental Policy Act analysis of the resort's Master Development Plan.

The project is located on National Forest System lands within sections 29, 30, 31, and 32, Township 6 South, Range 78 West, sections 5, 6, and 7, Township 7 South, Range 78 West, section 25, 26, 35, and 36, Township 6 South, Range 79 West, and sections 1, 2, 11, and 12, Township 7 South, Range 79 West, of the 6th Principal Meridian.

The proposed improvements were found to be generally consistent with the White River National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) and Regional Guide direction. It was determined that a non-significant Forest Plan amendment may be required