



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region
Regional Office

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RECEIVED
8/30/22 mm

File Code: 1560
Date: August 25, 2022

Lucia F. Sanchez
County Manager
P.O Box 127
Tierra Amarilla, New Mexico 87575

Dear Ms. Sanchez:

Thank you for your letter of August 4, 2022, regarding the County's desire to challenge the Final Record of Decision for the Carson National Forest Land Management Plan released on July 8, 2022.

The USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region values feedback from our local communities. I greatly appreciate your participation throughout the planning process. Thanks to your engagement and participation, the final Carson National Forest Plan reflects much of the valuable input that Rio Arriba County provided. The insight from Rio Arriba County and Northern New Mexico communities is reflected in the way the plan supports Northern New Mexico communities, their culture, and traditional ways of life.

After I listened to concerns and proposed remedies from the County and others at the March 15-17 objection resolution meetings, I conducted a thorough review to ensure the revised plans and supporting documents were responsive to the issues and met legal requirements. As a result of that process, I identified changes to improve the Carson's Land Management Plan and analysis and issued a written response to my findings on May 24, 2022.

During the resolution meeting, we discussed opportunities to collaborate on projects and programs to address the County's concerns outside of the plan. Some of these opportunities include designing small timber contracts to accommodate the local logging operations, building capacity in youth and young adults through job training programs, and clarifying how communal allotments could be managed within current forest service range policy. I believe any of these



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approaches would be compatible with the final plan and provide opportunities that address your concerns.

Thank you again for your letter and for your continued engagement. Please continue to work with the Carson National Forest Supervisor James Duran on these ideas and strengthening our relationships through collaboration on project planning and implementation; at james.d.duran@usda.gov or via phone at (575)658-6301.

Sincerely,

SHERRI
SCHWENKE

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SHERRI SCHWENKE
Date: 2022.08.25
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MICHIKO J. MARTIN
Regional Forester

Enclosures (2)

cc: James Duran