

SCHEDULE OF PROPOSED ACTIONS

August 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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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 align="center">On-going.</p> <p>Public Scoping completed on December 21, 2001. The EA for Comment was released in March 2003. Decision expected summer 2003.</p> <p>The analysis was completed in May 2002.</p> <p>The analysis is expected to be completed by summer 2003.</p> <p>The analysis is scheduled for completion by summer 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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<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.) Annual developed recreation site maintenance. Developed recreation sites include campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, overlooks and interpretive sites. Annual maintenance work is scheduled during the use season (May-September) in conjunction with the operation of the developed recreation sites. 2.) Annual trail maintenance work of existing forest system trails. The forest maintains between 150 to 250 miles of system trails each year. Trail maintenance is defined as the upkeep of the entire trail facility as needed for its safe, efficient use and maintained to its original constructed standard. Trails outside wilderness are maintained with a mini-excavator and a couple trail crew personnel. 3.) 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). 4.) 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. 5.) Outfitter and Guide Prospectus. This assessment will address the effects of awarding under special use permit additional outfitter and guide activities and service day on the Rio Grande National Forest. The activities include day use and overnight progressive hiking trips, 4 wd tours, fall game hunts, meat packing, limited bear and archery hunts, winter lion hunts, winter mountaineering and snowmobile trips on groomed trails. 6.) Winter Use Capacity. Plan amendment tied 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>Assessments currently in progress.</p> <p>Completed June 6, 2003</p> <p>Completed June 6, 2003</p> <p>Anticipated completion by July 7, 2003</p> <p>Anticipated Completion by July 25, 2003</p> <p>Completion by July 23, 2003</p> <p>September 2003</p>

WIMPS	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.	EA for comments will be available in the summer of 2003.
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TRAILS

BLANCA/ELLINGWOOD AND LITTLE BEAR PEAKS	This project involves relocation and improvement on the access trail 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 JIM JAMINET or KRISTI MURPHY (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Scoping closes August 11, 2003. Project implementation in September/October.
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
UTE TRAILHEAD	The Divide District is analyzing the possibility of relocating the Ute Creek Trailhead to a more suitable location to avoid further damage to adjacent riparian zone. Contact ART MARCILLA at the Divide Ranger District, (719) 657-3321.	Decision to stay and improve existing trailhead.
SOUTH ROCK CREEK TRAILHEAD	The Divide District plans to improve the existing parking facilities at the South Rock Creek Trailhead. This project proposal is based on trail users complaining of inadequate parking facilities for turning horse trailers and overnight parking for trail users. Project work would consist of minor cutting of cut-slope and using material on fill side to widen the existing facility. Contact ART MARCILLA at the Divide Ranger District, (719) 657-3321.	Decision to perform maintenance on existing facility.

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.	Analysis starting in September 2003.
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 at the Supervisor's Office, (719) 852-5941.	Delayed due to Reversal.
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.	Delayed due to reversal.
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 September 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. JIM JAMINET (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.	Delayed due to Reversal.
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 JIM JAMINET 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 at the Conejos Peak District, (719) 274-8971	On Hold.
HANDKERCHIEF MESA RANGE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	Analysis includes the following allotments: Cattle Mountain, Little Beaver, Handkerchief, Cross-Race, and Church. The area runs from South Fork to the Continental Divide, from Highway 160 and Wolf Creek Pass on the West to Beaver Mountain, Willow Park and Crystal Lakes on the East. Contact GILBERT BECENTI at the Divide Ranger District (719) 657-3321.	Delayed due to Reversal.
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 2003
SAGUACHE DISTRICT RANGE IMPROVEMENTS	Projects will be scoped individually as needed and evaluated prior to initiation. JIM JAMINET (719) 655-2547	Ongoing
HANDKERCHIEF RANGE	Environmental Analysis for 5 range allotments (Cattle Mountain, Church, Little Beaver, Cross Creek and Handkerchief C&H Allotment). Contact TRISTRAM POST at the Divide Ranger District (719) 657-3321	Scoping to be September 2003

TIMBER

COCHETOPA HILLS	Proposal to manage beetle infested timber north of Hwy 114. Contact MARY NELSON at the Saguache Ranger District, (719) 655-2547	Scoping expected early 2004
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 3 to 7 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 October 2003
BUFFALO PASS CAMPGROUND TIMBER SALE	Proposal to remove approximately 120 MBF of pole and saw-timber sized timber in and around the Buffalo Pass Campground on the Saguache Ranger District. Project is focused on suppression of Mountain Pine Beetle, Douglas Fir Beetle and IPS Beetle-Spruce Beetle. Small sales EA check list completed and have BO from USFWS. Contact JACK LEWIS (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Project implementation expected in winter 2004. Sale offer fall 2003

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.
LUDERS SALVAGE	Proposal to Manage Insect & Disease Infestations, and Fuels in the Luders area south of Hwy 114, Will be analyzed using district Small Sales EA. Contact JACK LEWIS, Saguache Ranger District (719) 655-2547.	Request for comments Fall 2003
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, Saguache Range District (719) 655-2547	Project implementation late fall. Request for comments early September 2003
COUNTY LINE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS	Proposal to manage beetle infested timber in a 300 to 450 acre 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. 3 to 5 MMBF of timber and may require up to 0.3 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 in August 2003

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.
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.	Decision expected fall 2003
HOT CREEK ACQUISITION	Proposed acquisition of the Hot Creek Parcels – T35N, R6E, Sec 12 Contact PAT PRENTICE at the Supervisor's Office (719) 852-5941.	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

KERBER CREEK	Initiate NEPA scoping of hazardous fuels mitigation projects around Kerber Creek developments. T 46N, R8E, Sec 32 & 33. Contact JIM GRIFFIN Supervisor's Office (719) 8525941.	Initiate scoping and evaluation Winter/Spring 2003.
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/Spring 2003.
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/Spring 2003.
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 at the Divide Ranger District (719) 657-3321.	CE expected August 2003.
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 at Saguache Ranger District, (719) 655-2547.	CE expected. Implement fall 2003

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 at the Supervisor's Office, (719) 852-5941.	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 at the Supervisor's Office (719)852-5941	Ongoing.
CENTURY TEL AND QWEST	Fiber optics between Creede and South Fork. Contact PAT PRENTICE (719) 852-5941, Supervisor's Office.	CenturyTel expected to complete in summer 2003.
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 at the Divide Ranger District, (719) 657-3321.	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, Supervisor's Office, (719) 852-5941.	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 JIM JAMINET, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	Complete NEPA winter/spring 2003 , install new gage and remove old gage fall 2003.
TEMPORARY SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR LOADING OF WATER TRUCKS	Loading of water trucks from Pass Creek for Highway 160 reconstruction project. T38N, R2E, Section 9, NMPM, Mineral County Colorado	Implementation May 2003
SLV REC	The proposal involves placement of an underground electric line in Sec 24, T42N, R1W, NMPM, Mineral County. Contact PAT PRENTICE, Supervisor's Office, (719) 852-5941.	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

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, Saguache 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 expected. Comments being accepted.
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.	Project scheduled for late summer 2003.
MIDDLE CREEK STREAM IMPROVEMENT	Middle Creek located above Love Lake needs some rehabilitation of eroding banks through structure placement. Contact DALE GOMEZ, (719) 657-3321, Divide Ranger District.	Project completed
LOVE LAKE MOOSE HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	Treating 5 acres of over mature willow by prescribed fire or mechanical treatment. DALE GOMEZ, (719) 657-3321 Divide 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.	Scoping completed. Planned for late summer 2003.
LAKE FORK BARRIER REPAIR	Project to repair existing structures. Contact SUE SWIFT-MILLER at the Conejos Peak Ranger District, (719) 274-8971.	Scoping underway
BIG SPRING STREAM RENOVATION	Contact SUE SWIFT-MILLER at the Conejos Peak Ranger District, (719) 274-8971.	Project completed
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 at the Saguache Ranger District (719) 655-2547.	Implementation August 2003
BEAR CREEK MULE DEER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT	Project consists of pruning over mature Mountain Mahogany to encourage it to re-sprout. T40N, R3E, Sec. 15. Contact DALE GOMEZ at the Divide Ranger District (719)657-3321	In planning stage
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 at the Divide Ranger District (719)657-3321	In planning stage
MODEL T SPRING DEVELOPMENT	Spring protection and development of water source for wildlife and livestock T39N, R3E, Sec.15, Contact BARRY WILEY at the Supervisor's Office. (719) 852-5941	Implementation August 2003
CHURCH CREEK WILLOW PLANTING	Project consists of planting willows to stabilize the bank on Church Creek. T39N, R3E, Sec.2, 11. Contact BARRY WILEY at the Supervisor's Office. (719) 852-5941	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 JIM JAMINET, (719) 655-2547, Saguache Ranger District.	NEPA Spring 2003 as needed to supplement Programmatic. Implement in 2004.
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 JM HONG at the Conejos Peak Ranger District. (719) 274-8971.	NEPA scheduled for summer/fall 2003. Ongoing

RECREATION

MIDDLE FORK FRISCO AND 30-MILE RIPARIAN/HORSE FACILITY PROJECT	Partnership project designed to reduce impacts to riparian areas by providing horse facilities (hitchrails, corral...). DALE GOMEZ or RONNIE DAY (719) 657-3321 Divide Ranger District.	Project completed
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
SPECTACLE LAKE HANDICAP ACCESS PROJECT	Project to improve accessibility at Spectacle Lake. May include hardened trail, fishing pier and installation of handicap accessible toilet. Contact SUE SWIFT-MILLER, (719) 274-8971, Conejos Peak Ranger District.	Scoping underway.
ELK CREEK CAMPGROUND REHABILITATION	Reconstruction of parts of existing campground units, 3 new toilets, 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.
ENDURO RECREATION EVENT	The Divide District has received a permit application from Enduro Cross Inc of Montrose, CO to hold a one day event in July of 2003 on motorized trails north of South Fork. Event scheduled for July 27, 2003 Contact ART MARCILLA at the Divide Ranger District, (719) 657-3321.	Decision memo. Completed all Biological Evaluations and Field Reviews.

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.