



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Columbine Ranger District
San Juan National Forest

POB 439
367 Pearl Street
Bayfield, CO 81122
Voice: 970-884-2512
FAX: 970-884-2428
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/sanjuan>

File Code: 1950/2700

Date:

Dear Interested Party,

The Columbine Ranger District of the San Juan National Forest is seeking public input during the early phases of planning for the **Zink Driveway and Utility Corridor Project**. This letter is being sent to you because you have been identified as having some interest in activities in the project area, or have already expressed interest in the project. We are inviting input on the scope of issues to be analyzed for this project.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action is to issue a Special Use Permit for construction of a driveway in the Falls Creek or Hidden Valley area, starting at Falls Creek Road (County Road 205) and proceeding east across Forest land to the private land boundary. The total length of the proposed driveway on Forest land would be approximately 2,600 feet or 0.5 miles. A buried phone and power line is also requested extending north from proposed driveway alignment approximately 2,300 feet to an existing power pole and overhead electric line.

A Scoping Document describing the need for the project, details of the proposed action, Design Criteria, and a map can be downloaded from the web at

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/projects/sanjuan/landmanagement/projects>

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Public input opportunities will come in three main timeframes:

1. Scoping – This is the public input period that is being undertaken now through **February XX**, 2014. This part of the process is used to help the Forest Service determine what issues and concerns need to be addressed in the environmental analysis. ***It should be noted by those who already submitted input or comments regarding this project, that there is no need to re-submit your comments at this time.*** The Forest Service has kept track of concerns and will address them in the analysis. Anyone who has already submitted input concerning this project is already on a mailing list for this project.
2. 30-Day Comment Period – After the scoping and pre-scoping comments are evaluated for content and applicability, the Forest Service will conduct the environmental analysis, to be released for public comment for a defined 30-day period. Also during this timeframe, the Forest Service plans to hold a public open house and a public field trip to the site. This may occur around March or April 2014, or later.

Anyone who has submitted input concerning this project at any time prior will already be on a mailing list for this project and will be notified when this comment period opens. Anyone who comments during the 30-day comment period will have eligibility to object to the proposed decision at a later stage in the process. Anyone that does not comment



during this specific 30-day timeframe cannot formally object later in the process, even if they submitted comments earlier.

3. Objection Period – After consideration of the public comments, the Forest Service will finalize the EA and write a draft Decision Notice. These documents will be released at the beginning of a 45-day Objection Period. Only those who commented during step 2 may formally object to the draft decision during this timeframe. This may occur around June 2014, or later.

ISSUES ALREADY IDENTIFIED

The Forest Service feels it has assembled a comprehensive list of issues that will be addressed in the EA. These are:

- Potential use of the existing road bed on private.
- Existing Conservation Easement on the applicant's private parcel.
- Compatibility with the requirements of the Hidden Valley Ranch acquisition.
- Compliance with Forest Plan guidance.
- Impacts of the proposal to archeological sites and the Falls Creek Archeological Area setting.
- Impacts of the proposal to wildlife habitat.
- Impacts of the proposal to recreational use and visuals.

These issues will be included in the analysis; therefore *it would be most helpful if you would focus further input on other issues that we may have missed.*

For more information or details concerning this project, please contact Lynn Wodell at 970-884-1433, or email lynnjwodell@fs.fed.us .

To submit your written scoping input by Feb. XXX, please contact Cam Hooley, Columbine Public Lands, P.O. Box 439, Bayfield, CO 81122; or e-mail chooley@fs.fed.us . ***Again, there is no need to re-submit comments at this time unless they contain a new issue.***

Input received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. The Forest Service will consider all input received and issues generated to determine the appropriate level of environmental documentation needed.

Sincerely,

MATT JANOWIAK
Columbine District Ranger