

Questions and Answers – National Forest and Grassland Survey

Why are you doing this survey?

All the forests and grasslands in the Southwestern Region will be revising their forest plans over the next few years. To make good decisions about how to use and care for those National Forests and Grasslands, the Forest Service needs to hear what people think about the forests and grasslands, what they think is important, and how they would like to see them managed.

Who is getting this questionnaire?

The questionnaire is being sent to a sample of residents of Arizona, New Mexico, and little bits of Oklahoma and Texas. The sample was selected in such a way that it will be representative of residents of the Forest Service's Southwestern Region.

How will the information be used?

Information from this National Forest and Grassland Survey will be analyzed and reported to the Forest Service. Managers and planners at the regional level and on each forest and grassland will use the information to help them understand what people think and what is important to them. Knowing what the public, and groups within the public, think; and being able to incorporate that information into the planning process from the beginning will help the Forest Service do a better job of planning and managing the National Forests and Grasslands. It will also be used, in the future, to help the Forest Service evaluate benefits and consequences of different plans and policies.

It is not a popularity contest to put any one use above any other. By law, National Forests and Grasslands are managed for multiple uses. Understanding all kinds of people, how they use the forests and grasslands, and what they want from those lands can help the Forest Service manage so as to reduce or avoid conflict and make all uses of the forests and grasslands better, while ensuring the health of the forests and grasslands.

Can I get a copy of the results?

Yes. Collecting and analyzing the data and compiling the results will take several months, but we will be glad to send you a copy. The reports will also be available on the Forest Service web site. Downloading reports from the web site will be the easiest and fastest way to get them when they are available, but write us a note and we will send you a hard copy—use the address for Michael Hand below. Start looking for reports late next summer.

Who can I call if I have more questions?

If you have more questions about why we are doing this survey, or if you would like a Spanish language version of the materials, please contact our project manager, Michael Hand, at 505-277-XXXX or mhand@unm.edu