



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Taos Field Office
226 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, New Mexico 87571-5983
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In Reply Refer To:
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August 14, 2006

Dear Reader:

The enclosed Final 2006 Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses a proposal by Santa Fe County, in cooperation with the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), to authorize an extension of South Meadows Road between Agua Fria and the Santa Fe Relief Route (NM 599) in Santa Fe County, New Mexico.

Background: On August 31, 2004, BLM signed a Decision Record and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the South Meadows Road Extension EA. The EA addressed five alternatives, including a no-build alternative, to extend South Meadows Road from Agua Fria Street to the Santa Fe Relief Route (NM 599) in Santa Fe County, New Mexico. The Decision Record selected a Proposed Action Alternative, authorizing an alignment partially across BLM land and allowing the issuance of a right-of-way to the County by BLM.

2006 Proposal: In June 2005, the County requested a modification to the original road alignment because it would require a partial taking of the private land, which the County wished to avoid. The realignment on BLM land would shift the road 100 feet west of the original route extending the road along the eastern boundary of BLM land instead of on the adjacent private property. As proposed, the modified right-of-way alignment on BLM is 1,054 long by 80 feet wide for a total acreage of 1.936 acres. In order to analyze the impacts from the proposed realignment, a new 2006 EA was prepared incorporating by reference the 2004 EA.

There was a 15-day public comment period on the 2006 EA and a draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Decision Record from July 24, 2006 to August 7, 2006. No comments regarding the 2006 EA or draft FONSI and Decision Record were received; therefore, a final decision has been made. Please direct your questions to:

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Additional copies of the Final EA are available for review at the following locations:

- BLM, Taos Field Office, 226 Cruz Alta Road in Taos, NM
- BLM, New Mexico State Office, 1474 Rodeo Road in Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Fe Library, Main Branch, 145 Washington Avenue in Santa Fe, NM
- Santa Fe Library, LaFarge Branch, 1730 Llano Road in Santa Fe, NM.
- An electronic copy may be viewed on the internet at: www.nm.blm.gov