



***Bureau of Land Management
Director's Protest Resolution Report***

**Recreational Shooting Range
Project on Public Lands in
Santa Fe County and Taos
Proposed Resource
Management Plan
Amendment and
Environmental Assessment**

September 2, 2025

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Taos Field Office released the Recreational Shooting Project on Public Lands in Santa Fe County and Taos Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment and Environmental Assessment (Taos Shooting Project PRMPA/EA) on June 30, 2025. The Taos Shooting Project PRMPA/EA considers both implementation-level decisions and land use planning decisions. Only the proposed land use planning decisions under consideration are subject to protest. The BLM received six unique protest letter submissions during the subsequent 30-day protest period, which ended on July 30, 2025. At the time the BLM issues a decision to authorize implementation-level action of the proposed actions analyzed in the Taos Shooting Project PRMPA/EA, any party to a case adversely affected by that decision may appeal the implementation-level decision to the Interior Board of Land Appeals.

The planning regulations at 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1610.5-2 outline the requirements for filing a valid protest on proposed land use planning decisions. The BLM evaluated all protest letters to determine which protest letters were complete and timely, and which persons have standing to protest. All six letters were timely and all protesting parties had standing to protest. However, none of the six letters contained any valid protest issues because they only included comments or opinions, or raised issues not germane to the planning decisions under consideration. Therefore, all letters were dismissed, as shown in the *Protesting Party Index*, below.

The BLM's Assistant Director for Resources and Planning addressed the protest letters received and has issued this protest resolution report to protesting parties and posted the report on the BLM's website. No changes to the Taos Shooting Project PRMPA/EA have been identified as necessary to address the protest letters received. The decision was sent to the protesting parties by certified mail, return receipt requested. Consistent with the *BLM Delegation of Authority Manual (MS-1203 Delegation of Authority)*, resolution of protests is delegated to the BLM Assistant Director for Resources and Planning, whose decision on the protest is the final decision of the U.S. Department of the Interior (43 CFR 1610.5-2(b)).

Protesting Party Index

Letter Number	Protestor	Organization	Determination
PP-NM-TAS-EA-25-01	William Feiereisen	--	Dismissed: Comments Only
PP-NM-TAS-EA-25-02	Caroline Knapp Todd Baribault	--	Dismissed: Comments Only
PP-NM-TAS-EA-25-03	Joseph Villegas	El Valle De La Cieneguilla Land Grant Association	Dismissed: Comments Only
PP-NM-TAS-EA-25-04	Jose Varela Lopez	--	Dismissed: Comments Only
PP-NM-TAS-EA-25-05	Jake Greene	--	Dismissed: Comments Only
PP-NM-TAS-EA-25-06	Robert Kiely	--	Dismissed: Comments Only