



# Final Planning Update

## *Long Range Transportation Plan for Forest Highways in New Mexico*

December 2011

**We Need Your Input!**

This plan will affect how Forest Highway projects are chosen in your state.

**See page 2.**

PFH 12 Cuba-La Cueva, FHWA

## Draft Forest Highway Long Range Transportation Plan Released

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS), New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), and the Central Federal Land Highways Division (CFLHD) of the Federal Highway Administration announce the release of the Draft New Mexico Forest Highway Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). This plan establishes a planning process and evaluation framework to select Forest Highway (FH) projects based on goals and objectives set forth by the abovementioned agencies, collectively called the Tri-Agency.

This LRTP establishes a formalized project selection process. This process documents a defensible framework for transportation decision-making for the New Mexico FH network and serves as a guide to ensure that transportation spending supports the mission and goals of the Tri-Agency. The result of project selection is a list of prioritized projects that is brought before the Tri-Agency partners for informed discussion and funding approval for inclusion in the FH Program and advancement into project development.

The LRTP is intended to be a living document that will require some changes over time. Future updates of this plan could include any significant changes to the goals and objectives of the FH Program, project selection process, or any other items that may affect how projects are selected for funding under the FH Program.

You can download and view the Draft New Mexico FH LRTP online at [www.cflhd.gov/LRTP](http://www.cflhd.gov/LRTP).

## Vision

To advance New Mexico's Forest Highway (FH) network in an efficient manner that facilitates responsible care for the land while providing an enhanced user experience to and within the National Forests.

## Mission

The Forest Highway Program will work in partnership with the Central Federal Lands Highway Division (CFLHD), New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and local entities to improve Forest Highways within the state.

## Goals

**Access & Mobility:** Provide sustainable access to and within the National Forests for use and enjoyment of the land and utilization of its resources.

**Objective 1.** Provide and maintain recreational, commercial, administrative, and other suitable access to National Forest System Lands by funding appropriate improvements for transportation facilities.

**Objective 2.** Consider mode choice opportunities to improve mobility and access to and through the National Forests.

**Objective 3.** Provide a seamless transportation network connecting the National Forest System lands with local communities and major highway systems.

**Safety and Condition:** Ensure a safe and reliable transportation network to and within the National Forests.

**Objective 1.** Identify risks to traveler safety and take measures to reduce them.

**Objective 2.** Improve the condition of the transportation facilities in order to reduce long-term maintenance costs.

**Funding and Economic Development:** Use innovative partnerships to fund FH projects and support economic development opportunities at the local, regional, and national level.

**Objective 1.** Create partnerships with other agencies or programs to provide additional funding to extend the benefits of the FH program.

**Objective 2.** Support economic development in terms of recreation, tourism and utilization of natural resources.

**Natural Resource Protection:** Maintain leadership in protecting and enhancing the natural environment.

**Objective 1.** Use transportation facilities as a tool to improve the health of National Forest System Lands.

**Objective 2.** Repair the negative impacts of transportation facilities to natural and cultural resources.

## We Need Your Input!

The New Mexico Tri-Agency would like to hear your comments on the Draft New Mexico FH LRTP. Please provide us with your comments, questions, and thoughts via email at the following address: [CFL.NMLRTP@dot.gov](mailto:CFL.NMLRTP@dot.gov)

You may download and view the plan document at [www.clfhd.gov/LRTP](http://www.clfhd.gov/LRTP).

