

Mr. Perry

L32

Santa Fe National Forest
P.O. Box 1689
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

2400
April 7, 1981

Note misspellings.

Dear

Reference is made to your letter regarding timber harvesting on the Santa Fe National Forest near Bandalier National Monument.

The Forest Service primary concern in the management of National Forest lands is the protection of the soil resource. Soil erosion will be minimal on these timber sale areas because the majority (95%) of soil types which will be affected have been evaluated as low for erosion hazard by a professional soil scientist. Soil depth is greater than 40 inches, infiltration capacity is high, and the surface and subsurface soil textures absorb almost all rainfall even during the most intense storms. Logging practices are designed to cause minimal soil disturbance.

Heavy siltation of streams will not occur, since no timber harvesting is proposed within the bottom of Alamo Canyon and Sanchez Canyon. The main Frijoles Canyon is outside the proposed timber sale area. Capulin Canyon has been designated as a protected stream course and any timber harvesting will be modified to protect the stream.

The timber harvest method to be used will not result in increased erosion that will significantly impact Bandalier National Monument. The soil types, topography, remaining canopy cover and ground cover is adequate to minimize soil loss and subsequent siltation of drainages. Existing roads throughout the proposed sale area will be used and less than ½ mile of new construction is planned. All new road crossings of drainage bottoms will be perpendicular to existing channels and limited to locations which are rocky and not moist.

The proposed timber sale which represents the second entry into this area will not significantly alter the characteristic landscape as viewed from Bandalier. Harvesting methods on slopes less than 40 percent will not create a dominate contrast in the existing canopy when viewed as middle ground. Primary visual areas are the foreground areas along roads and trails and these were adequately coordinated with other resources.

An archaeological inventory was completed in July 1980. Sites were recorded and provisions were made for their protection. Sites identified for protection and retention included structures and large scatter sites in good condition. Other sites will be selected for possible studies to recover the information they contain.

Meetings with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and Forest Service personnel have already been conducted as part of the legally required consultation. In addition, several visits to sites within the proposed timber sale area have occurred and there is agreement about our plans for mitigation.

The proposed timber sale is an important part of the Forest and National commitment to providing wood fiber and cannot be substituted. I feel that adequate care has been given to the protection of other resources. These practices have been coordinated with the Superintendent of the Bandalier National Monument.

I hope your concerns have been fully addressed in the above response. If any questions and/or concerns still exists, please contact me.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. PERRY

JAMES L. PERRY
Forest Supervisor

cc: JLPerry

JLPerry.do

A copy of this letter was sent to the following individuals. (List attached.)

[Signature]

4/17/81

