

Public Values and Preferences regarding Forest Uses and Management on the Pike and San Isabel National Forests, Colorado

Every Forest must have a Land and Resource Management Plan under the National Forest Management Act. The Pike and San Isabel National Forests (PSI) in south-central Colorado, west of Colorado Springs and Pueblo, are starting the revision of their existing Forest Plan. The Revised Plan will set goals and priorities for how the USDA Forest Service will manage the Forests for the next 10-15 years. As a local resident, you have a voice in the Revised Plan for the PSI.

We hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to make your voice heard by completing the survey and placing some information on the enclosed "*Pike and San Isabel National Forests Survey Map*".

The purpose of this survey is to:

- Explore your familiarity with the PSI (Part 1).
- Understand what uses you think are appropriate or inappropriate on the PSI (Part 2).
- Understand your beliefs about some important topics regarding the PSI in the next 10-15 years (Part 3).
- Discover in what ways you value the PSI, and where those values are represented in the Forests (Part 4).
- Learn about you and your community (Part 5).

It is important that the person to whom the survey was addressed completes the questionnaire. We are interested in your beliefs and the values in relation to the Pike and San Isabel National Forests.

Please answer all the questions in the survey. The average time to complete the survey and identify your important locations on the map is 20 minutes. When you are finished, place the survey and the map in the enclosed, stamped, self-addressed envelope and mail it back to us.

Thank you for your thoughtful responses to our survey. All of your responses will be kept confidential. Your participation is very much appreciated.

PART 1: Your familiarity with the Pike and San Isabel National Forests (PSI).

Q-1 About how many times during the last 12 months have you visited the PSI? If you are unsure about the boundary of these Forests, see the enclosed PSI Survey Map. (Please circle one response).

- | | | | |
|---|---------------|---|--------------------|
| 1 | 1 or 2 times | 4 | More than 10 times |
| 2 | 3 to 5 times | 5 | Never |
| 3 | 6 to 10 times | | |

Q-2 Please circle the seasons in which you most often visit the PSI.

- | | | | |
|---|--------|---|-------------|
| 1 | Spring | 4 | Winter |
| 2 | Summer | 5 | All Seasons |
| 3 | Fall | | |

Q-3 Do you or anyone in your household earn income from the sales of PSI products or from commercial services that depend on access to these Forests? (Please circle one response)

- 1 Yes. Please describe the source of the income: _____
- 2 No
- 3 Unsure

Q-4 What percent of your household's food is obtained from fishing, hunting, or gathering on PSI lands? (Please circle one response)

- | | | | |
|---|--------|---|---------|
| 1 | 1-25% | 4 | 76-100% |
| 2 | 26-50% | 5 | None |
| 3 | 51-75% | | |

Q-5 In general, how interested are you in what happens to the PSI in the next 10-15 years? (Please circle one response).

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| 1 | Very interested | 3 | Somewhat interested |
| 2 | Moderately interested | 4 | Not interested |

Q-6 In your opinion, what role should the public play in the planning of the PSI? (Please circle one response).

- 1 None.
- 2 The public should provide suggestions for the Forest Service to consider.
- 3 Public should be full and equal partners in the planning process.
- 4 Don't know.

PART 2: What do you think about the possible uses of the PSI?

Q-7 There are many possible public uses of the PSI. Please tell us whether you favor or oppose the following uses on these Forests. (Please circle one response for each item).

#	Public Uses	Strongly Favor	Favor	No Opinion	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
1	Sight-seeing (incl. driving for pleasure)	1	2	3	4	5
2	Sport Fishing	1	2	3	4	5
3	Non-motorized recreation (e.g. hiking, canoeing)	1	2	3	4	5
4	Sport Hunting	1	2	3	4	5
5	Helicopter skiing/hiking	1	2	3	4	5
6	Wildlife viewing/observing	1	2	3	4	5
7	Motorized recreation (e.g. snowmobiles, ATV's, jet-skiing).	1	2	3	4	5
8	Logging for Fuels Reduction	1	2	3	4	5
9	Commercial Mining	1	2	3	4	5
10	Gathering forest products (e.g. berries, mushrooms)	1	2	3	4	5
11	Logging for increased water collection	1	2	3	4	5
12	Oil/gas Drilling	1	2	3	4	5
13	Logging for wood products	1	2	3	4	5
14	Commercial outfitting/guiding	1	2	3	4	5
15	Communication sites/utility easements	1	2	3	4	5
16	Wilderness	1	2	3	4	5
17	Fish and Wildlife Habitat	1	2	3	4	5
18	Other _____	1	2	3	4	5

PART 3: This section seeks your opinions about some important topics regarding the PSI in the next 10-15 years.

Q-8 Forest roads may be constructed for different purposes. Please indicate your level of agreement if roads would be built in the PSI for *each* of the following reasons:

Purpose of Road Building	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Commercial uses (timber, grazing, mining)	1	2	3	4	5
Access for recreational use.	1	2	3	4	5
Vegetation management for :					
• fuels reduction	1	2	3	4	5
• fire suppression	1	2	3	4	5
• wildlife habitat improvement	1	2	3	4	5
No purpose is acceptable	1	2	3	4	5

Q-9 In your opinion, how much new road building should occur on the PSI in the next 10-15 years? (Please circle one response).

- 1 More gravel roads and paved roads.
- 2 More paved roads only.
- 3 More gravel roads only.
- 4 Fewer roads (some roads are closed and/or roadbeds rehabilitated)
- 5 No new roads

Q-10 The PSI currently has 614 miles of paved, gravel and dirt roads. The Forests are also considering the increase in unmanaged, motorized vehicle use. In your opinion, how many of these Forest road miles should be open to off-highway vehicles?

- 1 All 614 miles of roads should be open to off-highway vehicles.
- 2 Most of the 614 miles of roads should be open to off-highway vehicles.
- 3 To reduce conflicts, some of the roads should be open to off-highway vehicles only, others to non-motorized recreation only.
- 4 There should be no roads open to off-highway vehicles.
- 5 Don't know

Q-11 As in Q-10, the PSI currently has 614 miles of paved, gravel and dirt roads, which also allow snow mobile use, when there is sufficient snow. Snowmobiling is an acceptable use of national forest lands under certain conditions. What would you prefer the PSI do for the next 10-15 years with respect to snowmobiling? (Please circle one response).

- 1 All 614 miles of roads should be open to snow mobile use.
- 2 Most of the 614 miles of roads should be open to snow mobile use.
- 3 To reduce conflicts, some of the roads should be open to snow mobile use only, others to non-motorized recreation only.
- 4 There should be no roads open to snow mobile use.
- 5 Don't know

Q-12 On average the PSI have harvested 2.5 million board feet per year, which is enough lumber to frame about 325 (2100 sq ft) houses per year. How much timber would you like to see harvested per year on the PSI over the next 10-15 years? (Please circle one response).

- 1 More than the average amount harvested (2.5 million board feet per year).
- 2 The same amount as the average (2.5 million board feet per year).
- 3 Less than the average amount harvested (2.5 million board feet per year).
- 4 None

Q-13 Timber harvesting (logging) occurs for any of several management purposes on the PSI. Under what conditions is logging acceptable to you? Please indicate your level of agreement with logging on the PSI for *each* of the following reasons:

Reasons for Logging	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Logging for commercial profit only.	1	2	3	4	5
Logging for fire prevention to protect life and property.	1	2	3	4	5
Logging to remove dead or insect-infested trees.	1	2	3	4	5
Logging to create or improve wildlife habitat.	1	2	3	4	5
Do not support logging for any reason.	1	2	3	4	5

Q-14 Different types of forests require different approaches to treatments. Where communities are concerned, a trade-off decision sometimes must be made between treatments that may be displeasing in some way, e.g. aesthetically, and no treatments which may carry the risk of wildfire for example to private property. Considering the above, would you favor or oppose the following actions **to reduce the risk of wildfires close to communities**:

Actions	Strongly Favor	Favor	No Opinion	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Clear cutting	1	2	3	4	5
Forest thinning	1	2	3	4	5
Prescribed fires	1	2	3	4	5
No Action	1	2	3	4	5

Q-15 Considering the trade-off decision in Q-14, **how would you rate your level of concern regarding wildfire?**

Concern	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	No Opinion	Somewhat Unconcerned	Very Unconcerned
Level of Concern	1	2	3	4	5

Q-16 Congressionally designated Wilderness Areas are devoted to recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation, and historical purposes. In general, road-building, logging, mining, and permanent structures are prohibited in Wilderness Areas. Today nearly 389,000 acres or 17 % of the total combined area of the PSI, are managed as Wilderness Areas. What percentage of the **remaining** 83% of the lands managed by the PSI would you like to see recommended to Congress as Wilderness? (Please check one response).

- None
- 1-10%
- 11-25%
- 26-45%
- 46-60%
- 61-75%
- All the remaining lands

Q17 As water needs increase for Colorado's Front Range towns and cities, the lands managed by the PSI may in the next 10 to 15 years increasingly serve as locations for larger or new reservoirs. Do you feel that this is an appropriate use of PSI? (Please circle one response).

- 1 Yes, without any reservations.
 - 2 Not at all.
 - 3 Don't know.
 - 4. Yes, but under some conditions (please specify): _____
-

Q-18 The PSI are located near the rapidly growing Denver/Colorado Springs/Pueblo metropolitan area. The PSI are near four of the fastest growing population centers in the US. Visitor use on the Forests for FY01 was estimated at 3.87 million visits, placing the PSI in the top 10 recreation forests nationally. This trend of increasing visitations is projected to continue over the next 10-15 years. Management decisions in the future may involve tradeoffs between environmental quality (related to soils, vegetation, wildlife, water and/or air quality) and access for recreation. If these decisions were up to you, would you (please circle one response):

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Decide in favor of all forms of recreation over environmental quality. |
| 2 | Decide in favor of motorized recreation over environmental quality. |
| 3 | Decide in favor of non-motorized recreation over environmental quality. |
| 4 | No opinion. |
| 5 | Decide in favor of environmental quality over non-motorized recreation |
| 6 | Decide in favor of environmental quality over motorized recreation. |
| 7 | Decide in favor of environmental quality over all forms of recreation. |

None of the above. My preference would be: _____

Q-19 Another recreation decision is the increasing use on these Forests by commercial and institutional groups such as a hunting outfitter, a religious organization or an outdoor school. Currently issued permits include: 6 camps, about 15 facilities (ski areas, target ranges, rental services), 140 outfitter guides, and 40 recreation events (races and activities). To balance non-commercial and commercial use with environmental quality in the Forests, would you decide (please circle one response):

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | To favor commercial and non-commercial forms of recreation over environmental quality. |
| 2 | To favor commercial forms of recreation over environmental quality. |
| 3 | To favor non-commercial forms of recreation over environmental quality. |
| 4 | No opinion. |
| 5 | To favor environmental quality over non-commercial forms of recreation. |
| 6 | To favor environmental quality over commercial forms of recreation. |
| 7 | To favor environmental quality over commercial and non-commercial forms of recreation. |

None of the above. My preference would be: _____

Part 4: In what ways do people value the Pike and San Isabel National Forests?

Q-20 The PSI holds different values for each person. We would like to know how important each of the following values of the PSI is to you and where these values are represented on the map.

Imagine that you could “spend” \$100 to ensure that the PSI keep their existing values. You may allocate or spend the \$100 in any way you like, but your total spending may not exceed \$100. You might spend all \$100 on one value (and \$0 on all others), or you might spend \$50 on one value, \$25 on another value, and \$25 on yet another value. Remember, the total dollars you spend should equal \$100. (Reference to money is not made to actual money, your own or the USDA Forest Service’s budget).

- \$ ___ **Aesthetic value (A)** — I value these Forests because I enjoy the scenery, sights, sounds, smells, etc.
- \$ ___ **Biological diversity value (B)** — I value these Forests because they provide a variety of fish, wildlife, plant life, etc.
- \$ ___ **Cultural value (C)** — I value these Forests because they are a place for me to continue and pass down the wisdom and knowledge, traditions, and way of life of my ancestors.
- \$ ___ **Economic value (E)** — I value these Forests because they provide timber, fisheries, minerals, and/or tourism opportunities such as outfitting and guiding.
- \$ ___ **Future value (F)** — I value these Forests because they allow future generations to know and experience the Forests as they are now.
- \$ ___ **Historic value (H)** — I value these Forests because they have places and things of natural and human history that matter to me, others, or the nation.
- \$ ___ **Intrinsic value (I)** — I value these Forests in and of themselves, whether people are present or not.
- \$ ___ **Learning value (L)** — I value these Forests because we can learn about the environment through scientific observation or experimentation.
- \$ ___ **Life Sustaining value (LS)** — I value these Forests because they help produce, preserve, clean, and renew air, soil, and water.
- \$ ___ **Recreation value (R)** — I value these Forests because they provide a place for my favorite outdoor recreation activities.
- \$ ___ **Spiritual value (S)** — I value these Forests because they are a sacred, religious, or spiritually special place to me or because I feel reverence and respect for nature there.
- \$ ___ **Therapeutic value (T)** — I value these Forests because they make me feel better, physically and/or mentally.

\$100 Total Value Allocation

Q-21 In the previous question you told us **what values** are important to you related to these Forests. For this question, identify the places **that represent those values on the map**. Look at the two-sided Survey Map of the PSI. Note the map symbols and value abbreviations on each side. To identify the places that are important to you, follow these two steps:

Step 1. When you look at the value(s) you indicated in Question 20, what places do you think of in the PSI? You may think of one or more places (up to four places) for each value you indicated in Question 20.

- By drawing dots with a dark-colored pen directly on the map, mark the places that represent your important values.
- Mark what Value that Place represents by using the value abbreviations immediately following the name of the Value found in Q-20 or by referring to the same Value abbreviations as listed on the map.
- Then give the Place you marked a number of 1 through 4. This is now the Value Mark.

Example: You indicated Aesthetic Value (A) in question 20 as one of your important values related to the PSI. When you think of Aesthetic Value, you think of two places: Pretty Peak and Golden Pond (imaginary places). You make two dots on the map: one where you think Pretty Peak is located, and you Value Mark it with “A1” for Aesthetic Value, Place number 1. You make another dot where you think Golden Pond is located, and you Value Mark it with “A2”, for Aesthetic Value, Place number 2. Follow Step 1 for each Value you allocated money to in Q-20.

Step 2: Please list in the table below each Value Mark along with its corresponding Place name. If you don’t know the specific name of these Places, then write down an approximate location, e.g. “creek just south of Mt. Elbert”. Your specificity regarding Places will help the Forest Service in their planning purposes.

- You only need to mark dots for the values for which you allocated money in Question 20.
- It is not necessary for you to have visited or used the Forest location(s) where you place your dots. Some Values may be related to forest use while others are not.
- If you know the names of more than 14 Places, please add them to the list on the page 11.

Example 1: To follow the previous example, under Value Mark you would write “A1” and under Place Name “Pretty Peak”. For the second Place related to Aesthetic Value, you would write “A2” under Value Mark and “Golden Pond” under Place Name. **Example 2:** You indicated in Q-20 that Recreation Value (R) was important, and you can think of three Places that represent that Value to you: make Value Marks directly on the map with R1, R2 and R3 next to them. In the table below list them as Value Marks R1, R2, R3 with their corresponding Place names or approximate locations.

List of Value Locations Marked on the Survey Map					
#	Value Mark	Place Name	#	Value Mark	Place Name
1.	A1	<u>Example</u> Pretty Peak	8.		
2.	A2	<u>Example</u> Golden Pond			
1.			9.		
2.			10.		
3.			11.		
4.			12.		
5.			13.		
6.			14.		
7.			15.		

PART 5: In this section, we would like to learn about you and your community.

Q-22 What community do you live in or what community is closest to your home? _____

Q-23 What is your zip code? _____

Q-24 If you do not live within the above community, approximately how many miles is your residence from the community? _____ MILES

Q-25 How long have you lived in or near this community? ____ YEARS

Q-26 How long have you lived in Colorado/New Mexico? ____ YEARS

Q-27 How would you describe your **current** community?

___ a large city with 250,000 or more people

___ a town with 10,000 to 49,999 people

___ a city with 1000,000 to 249,999 people

___ a small town/village with less than 10,000 people

___ a small city with 50,000 to 99,999 people

___ a farm or rural area

Q-28 How would you describe the community **you were raised in**?

If more than one, check off the type of place you feel was most influential to you.

___ a large city with 250,000 or more people

___ a town with 10,000 to 49,999 people

___ a city with 1000,000 to 249,999 people

___ a small town/village with less than 10,000 people

___ a small city with 50,000 to 99,999 people

___ a farm or rural area

Q-29 The cohesiveness of a community refers to the degree to which the residents of a community work together to accomplish common goals. It is the “sense of community” that is held by its residents. Overall, on a scale from Extremely Weak to Extremely Strong, how would you rate the cohesiveness of your community? (Please circle one number).

Extremely Weak												Extremely Strong
Sense of Community	1	2	3	4	5	6	7					Sense of Community

Q-30 What is your age? _____ YEARS

Q-31 Are you? (Please circle one response): **1** Male **2** Female

Q-32 What is the highest level of education you have completed? (Please check one response).

___ Less than high school diploma ___ High school diploma or GED ___ Technical/vocational degree

___ 4-year college degree ___ Some graduate work ___ One or more graduate degrees

Q-33 What is your approximate annual household income before taxes? (Please circle one response).

___ Less than \$ 10,000 ___ \$ 25,000 – 49,999 ___ \$ 75,000 – 99,999 ___ \$ 125,000 – 149,999

___ \$ 10,000 – 24,999 ___ \$ 50,000 – 74,999 ___ \$ 100,000 – 124,999 ___ \$ 150,000 or more

Q-34 What is your occupation? OCCUPATION _____

Q-35 In what ethnic group (A) and race (B) would you put yourself?

A. Ethnicity (select one) ___ Hispanic or Latino ___ NOT Hispanic or Latino

B. Race (select one or more) **1** Asian American **2** Black/African American
 3 Native American **4** Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
 5 White **6** Other _____

Q-36 Is there anything else you would like to tell us about the PSI and what you would like to see happen in the next 10-15 years? Is there any other topic of interest or concern that you would like the Forest Service to know about? We would appreciate any comments.

Please check this box if you would like us to send you the PSI survey results.

Names of Locations – Continuation from page 9, if needed.

List of Locations Marked on the Survey Map.					
#	Value/Place Number	Location Name	#	Value/ Place Number	Location Name
16			20		
17			21		
18			22		
19			23		

Please mail the survey and the map in the self-addressed, pre-paid envelope back to us.

**Your time and effort will help decide how the Pike and San Isabel National Forests will be managed for the next 10 – 15 years.
Thank you very much!**