



United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
Bandelier National Monument  
15 Entrance Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544  
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April 26, 2013

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The National Park Service (NPS) will be preparing a new fire management plan and environmental assessment (EA) for Bandelier National Monument, New Mexico. The proposed fire management plan is intended to be both strategic and operational, guiding the full range of wildland fire program activities that support land and resource management objectives.

The purpose of the proposed fire management plan for Bandelier National Monument is to comply with new national and NPS policies and to incorporate new scientific information into fire management planning within parks. Since the monument's last fire management plan was prepared in 2005, high intensity fires and climate change have combined to result in changes to the ecosystem that are not reflected in the past plan. In preparing a new fire management plan for Bandelier National Monument, the National Park Service seeks to provide management direction that reflects these changes. In addition, the new fire management plan intends to provide management direction that improves the ability to achieve the following goals:

- Provide for the preservation, protection, understanding, and enjoyment of the natural and cultural resources of Bandelier National Monument through an integrated program where management activities support ecosystem structures and functions consistent with cultural resource preservation needs.
- Educate, inform, consult, collaborate, and maintain cooperative fire planning and management with other agencies, landowners, and local communities.
- Promote ecosystem resiliency using fire management tools.
- Where feasible and appropriate, encourage collaborative cross-boundary and interagency fire management coordination that identifies and mitigates hazards related to wildland fire.

An environmental assessment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates issues and impacts to monument resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The NPS encourages public participation throughout the planning process. There will be two opportunities to comment formally on the project—once during initial project scoping and again following release of the EA. The NPS is currently in the scoping phase of the proposed project and invites the public to submit written suggestions, comments, and concerns regarding the project online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/band>.

The National Park Service will hold two public open house meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the project, have discussions with park staff, and provide comments. Maps and displays will provide information about the project. There will be opportunities to provide input in writing or during the public comment portion of the meeting. Information for the two meetings is as follows:

**Wednesday, May 15, 2013 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.**  
***Pajarito Room of the Fuller Lodge***  
2132 Central Avenue  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

**Thursday, May 16, 2013 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
***Los Alamos Fire Department Station 3***  
129 Street Road 4  
White Rock, NM 87544

Comments also may be sent to the address below no later than June 15, 2013. If you have questions about the project, or would like more information, please contact Carmen Robertson, NEPA Specialist, at (505) 672-3861, ext. 713 or [Carmen\\_Robertson@nps.gov](mailto:Carmen_Robertson@nps.gov).

Written comments can be sent to:

Bandelier National Monument  
ATTN: Fire Management Plan EA Comments  
15 Entrance Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

Sincerely,



Jason Lott  
Superintendent