

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect  
Frijoles and Alamo Headwaters Public Access Project

Bandelier National Monument  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

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Summary

Bandelier National Monument is proposing to open park lands north of NM 4 and west of FR 289 within Sandoval County that are closed to recreational public use, and designate those lands and lands south of NM 4 as year- round day use only. These lands include areas acquired in 1977, 1998, and 2000, totaling approximately 3,997 acres and are hereafter referred to as the project area. Of this total, approximately 1,488 acres are currently open to seasonal winter use only. The remaining 2,509 acres are closed to public access year- round. The proposed action is to formally designate all 3,997 acres open for year- round, daytime public use. This environmental assessment/assessment of effect evaluates three alternatives, including two action alternatives and the No Action alternative, for implementation.

Alternative B, the NPS preferred alternative, proposes to open monument lands within the project area for year- round, daytime public use. This alternative proposes two hiking routes within the project area: the Cerro Grande Route and the Alamo Boundary Route. Both routes will be out- and- back routes and will follow existing logging skid trails to the extent possible to minimize ground disturbance. This alternative also proposes to designate two parking areas along pullouts on New Mexico Highway 4 (NM 4), and utilize the existing paved parking areas along NM 4 for access to the project area. If monitoring over the next three to five years indicates the need for an additional parking area, one will be considered adjacent to Forest Road 289 (FR 289) at the Alamo Boundary Route trailhead. All other administrative activities that are currently ongoing within the project area will remain unchanged.

The NPS preferred alternative would have impacts that range from negligible to moderate, adverse and beneficial, direct and indirect, and short and long term on soils, hydrology, and water quality; vegetation; wildlife; threatened and endangered species; archeological resources, ethnographic resources; park operations; visitor use and experience; and land/resource managing agencies, tribal land management plans, and monument neighbors. No major adverse impacts to resources within Bandelier were identified in the analysis.

## Notes to Reviewers and Respondents

If you wish to comment on the environmental assessment/assessment of effect, you may mail comments to the name and address below. Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review during business hours. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. **If you wish to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.** We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public inspection in their entirety.

Please address written comments to:

Superintendent  
Darlene M. Koontz  
c/o Frijoles and Alamo Headwaters Project  
Bandelier National Monument  
15 Entrance Road  
Los Alamos, NM 87544

You may also view an electronic copy of this document and submit electronic comments via the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) project website:

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov>

Click on the link for “Plans/Documents Open for Comment”, select the title of the document, and follow the instructions for submitting electronic comments. If you experience any problems with this website, please contact Jennifer Carpenter, Monument Planner, at 505- 672- 3861, ext. 563.

All comments must be postmarked or time stamped by July 17, 2005 in order to be considered in the project planning process.