



# NEWS RELEASE

Department of the Interior • Bureau of Land Management  
1800 Marquess St. • Las Cruces, NM 88005  
Alan Ables, Public Affairs Officer • 505/525-4488

---

**For Immediate Release**  
June 4, 2001

**For Additional Information**  
Terry Humphrey, 505/751-4718

## **Park Service/BLM Begin Historic Joint Planning for *El Camino Real*, Schedule Meetings for Public Participation**

LAS CRUCES – The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management will host public meetings in June to discuss developing the *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* National Historic Trail, according to Terry Humphrey, BLM planning team leader.

“Through continuing talks with federal agencies, tribal and local governments and – most importantly – the public, we hope to form an advisory group to help guide development that will ensure environmental protection, historic development and recreational access,” Humphrey said.

This is the first time that a national trail has been assigned to two agencies for joint administration, according to Humphrey.

A series of public hearings are scheduled from El Paso to Santa Fe. Hearings will begin at 6:30 p.m. June 13 at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces, and June 14 at the Chamizal National Memorial, 800 S. San Marcial, El Paso.

Additional information is available by contacting: Harry Myers, NPS, P.O.Box 728, Santa Fe, NM 87504-0728, 505/988-6717. Written comments must be postmarked no later than July 16.

Spanish explorers created the 1,200-mile *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (royal road to the interior lands) in the 16<sup>th</sup> Century as a link between Mexico City and present-day Santa Fe. The 404-mile U.S. portion of the trail runs from the Rio Grande near El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, N.M. Congress granted national historic status to the trail in October 2000.