



NEWS RELEASE



US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Open House Rescheduled for *El Camino Real* Plan

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – Due to snowy weather conditions this month, the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management have rescheduled a public meeting for January 6, 2003, at the Oñate Center, Highway 68, in Alcalde, New Mexico, from 5 pm to 8 pm to hear public comment about the draft management plan for the *El Camino Real* National Historic Trail.

Open house participants may meet with plan drafters, ask questions and provide comments. The public **comment period** for the draft plan **ends January 15, 2003**. Comments should be directed Harry Myers, Long Distance Trails Group Office, Santa Fe, PO Box 728, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0728, Sarah Schlanger, New Mexico Bureau of Land Management, NM930, PO Box 27115, Santa Fe, New Mexico 87504-0115. Additionally, comments may be submitted online at the El Camino Real website, www.elcaminoreal.org, or directly submitted through any e-mail program to info@elcaminoreal.org.

The document is called “*El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* National Historic Trail Draft Comprehensive Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement.” It was prepared during the past 18 months following an earlier series of public hearings to discuss environmental issues, historical development and recreational access along the 404-mile U.S. portion of the trail from El Paso, Texas, to San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico.

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The draft plan lists alternatives for managing historic properties on BLM-administered and other federal, tribal, state, local or private lands.

Spanish explorers created the 1,200-mile *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* (Royal Road of the Interior) in the 16th Century as a link between the colonial capital Mexico City and the provincial capitals of the “interior lands” in the present-day Santa Fe area. Congress granted national historic status to the trail in October 2000. This is the first time that a national trail has been assigned to two agencies for joint administration.

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