



NEWS RELEASE

US DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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Proposed Management Plan for El Camino Real National Historic Trail Available

The National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management have released a proposed management plan, the *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail Comprehensive Management Plan (CMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS)*.

The plan describes trail resources and identifies sites for interpreting the trail and its significance to the nation. The plan will provide for resource protection and visitor use on the trail between El Paso, Texas, and San Juan Pueblo, New Mexico. Trail management will be conducted with federal, state and private partners. Private entities may join the trail on a voluntary basis.

El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail runs for over 400 miles within the U.S., linking El Paso and Santa Fe along the valley of the Río Grande. An additional 1,200 miles of trail links the American portion to the old “royal road” leading south to Mexico City.

In its heyday, from 1598 to the late 1800s, the Camino Real served as a conduit for cultural exchange, trade, immigrant travel, and commerce, until it was superseded by rail lines and paved highways. Much of the old Camino Real runs parallel to, or even under, existing highways. Travelers along I-25 now follow the old wagon route for much of its journey. Today, history buffs can visit Camino Real landmarks such as Santa Fe's Palace of the Governors, the oldest European-built structure of any kind in the nation, or the Onate Crossing, on the Rio Grande in old El Paso.

Soon, visitors will be able to take short hikes to overlooks and interpretive sites on the more remote stretches of the trail, and enjoy a walk, mountain bike or horseback ride near the old wagon road. An interpretive center devoted to the trail, the Camino Real International Heritage Center, 30 miles south of Socorro, will open to the public in 2005.

BLM planning regulations state that persons who participated in the planning process and have an interest which may be adversely affected, may protest. The complete plan may be reviewed on-line at www.elcaminoreal.org. Paper copies may also be obtained by contacting:

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www.nm.blm.gov

The Camino Real was designated a national historic trail in 2000. Trail sites and traces on federally-managed lands are protected components of the national historic trail. Privately-owned sites, state lands, and other trail resources can be incorporated into the national historic trail through a voluntary site certification program. Administration of national historic trail programs, including the certification program, will be handled jointly by the National Park Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

Trail partners will provide programs and activities that integrate themes, resources, and landscapes at certified sites on private land or protected sites on public land. Certification priorities will be placed on sites and segments supporting interpretive and educational programming and protecting significant resources.

The proposed plan also will amend the Bureau of Land Management's Taos, White Sands, and Mimbres Resource Management Plans related to protection of scenic values along approximately 10 miles of the 43 miles of trail corridor that falls on the public lands managed by the Bureau.

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BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that persons who participated in the planning process and have an interest which may be adversely affected may protest. A protest may raise only issues that were submitted for the record during the planning process. The protest must be filed within 30 days of the date that the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the notice of receipt of the Proposed Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement. All protests must be in writing and mailed to the following address:

Regular Mail:
Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

Overnight Mail:
Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 452-5045

The protest must contain:

- a. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
- b. A statement of the part or parts of the plan and the issue or issues being protested.
- c. A copy of all documents addressing the issue(s) that the protesting party submitted during the planning process or a statement of the date they were discussed for the record.
- d. A concise statement explaining why the protestor believes the State Director's and Regional Director's decision is wrong.

E-mail and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under these conditions, BLM will consider the e-mail or faxed protest as an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and emails to Brenda_Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov."



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