

Carson plan revision enters next phase

By J.R. Logan

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The Carson National Forest is accepting public comment on its proposal to revise its 30-year-old forest plan.

The plan is meant to be a big-picture document describing what the forest should look like, and what can be done to preserve natural resources while leaving it open to public use.

For almost a year, forest staff have been meeting with government officials from various agencies as well as local nonprofits to focus its revision efforts.

Kevin Naranjo, the Forest Service employee in charge of the plan revision, has said the Carson is a “community forest” and has emphasized the need for the agency to be a good neighbor.

The Forest Service has already released its “assessment report,” which was intended to describe current conditions in the forest and highlight issues — like water quality and resilience in the face of climate change — that could be addressed in the updated plan. The agency has also finished a document describing specific management policies that should be changed in order to address problems on the forest.

To comment on the proposal, or to find out how else to participate in the plan revision process, email carsonplan@fs.fed.us or call (575) 758-6221.