

DRAFT Agreement between Geocaching.com and the San Juan National Forest

Not yet ratified by either party, subject to change

Compliance with Policy

Geocaching.com agrees to abide by the new SJNF policy on geocaching within the SJNF (see attached policy) and to require all geocachers using the Geocaching.com website to do so.

Registration and Designated Contact

Geocaching.com designates an administrator to supervise and register the 50 allowed caches with the SJNF. The administrator responsible for Colorado will monitor geocaches in the SJNF. The name, and email address of the administrator will be provided to the SJNF so that a contact person is available to respond to SJNF concerns and to coordinate efforts between the geocaching community and the SJNF. The geocaching administrator will identify individuals and clubs active in the SJNF. A group of volunteers will be recruited to assist with any local administration of area geocaches as needed.

Assessment of Existing Geocaches (prior to the date of this agreement)

The Colorado geocaching administrator will, immediately upon the inception of this agreement, evaluate all geocaches within the boundaries of the SJNF. If doubt exists as to whether a given cache is within the new regulations, local volunteers will be sent to physically evaluate it.

If a geocache is determined to not be in alignment with the new SJNF policy, the administrator will arrange with its owner to either a) physically remove it and archive (delete) its listing at geocaching.com or b) alter that cache as needed to bring it into compliance with the policy.

Once a cache is determined to be in alignment with the new SJNF policy, the administrator will assist the cache owner in registering it with the Geocaching.com site.

New Geocache Approval Process

The San Juan National Forest will provide Geocaching.com with Forest boundary information, as well as Wilderness, special area, and closed area boundaries to facilitate approval of caches in appropriate areas on the Forest.

Geocaching.com will maintain a maximum of 50 caches within the Forest boundary at any one time. New caches will need to meet the requirements of the attached geocaching policy and be registered with Geocaching.com.

This registration process will prevent most problems with new caches. However, should SJNF personnel desire a second opinion about a proposed cache, the administrator can be contacted to help evaluate any proposed cache.

The SJNF can deny any new cache based on management, environmental or social factors.

Ongoing Monitoring of Geocaches

The 50 caches that have gained approval from Geocaching.com for placement on the SJNF will be monitored by the Colorado administrator at Geocaching.com. In particular, he or she will be alert to cache owners who do not appear to be monitoring and maintaining their caches. According to the rules of the sport, owners of caches bear the responsibility for cache maintenance. However, if it appears that an owner is not upholding that responsibility, the administrator will transfer it to a more responsible owner, or disable it online and arrange for a local volunteer to remove from the SJNF.

The SJNF can require removal of the cache at any time based on subsequent environmental or social factors, or due to an owner's failure to manage/monitor their cache.

2005 Contact Information

Contact information will be updated as necessary to ensure proper and timely communications.

San Juan National Forest

Recreation Program Leader David Baker djbaker@fs.fed.us 970-385-1240

Geocaching.com

Colorado Administrator Michael co-app@yahoo.com

San Juan Geocaching

Local Contact Byron Evans raptar33@yahoo.com 970-884-4635