CORONADO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

NEEDS COMMENTS TO THE 1985 CIBOLA NF PLAN UPDATE PROCESS

*Submitted: April 2, 2015*

There is a need to make soil health a top priority, including moisture retention, soil microbiology, and carbon sequestration.

There is a need to maintain at least 2-3 inches of ground cover everywhere there is a soil surface.

There is a need to create and maintain a grass, forb, shrub, and tree canopy to protect the soil. More emphasis on beneficial shrub communities is necessary.

There is a need to directly address erosion prevention as a primary goal.

There is a need to consolidate adjoining grazing allotments and require the permittees to keep stock constantly moving to mimic the prey-predator dynamic of large herds of grazing animals in order to protect the soil, give vegetation proper recovery time, and to sequester carbon to improve soil fertility and moisture retention. This would also allow larger stocking rates.

There is a need to control one-seeded juniper in the PJ to more favor grasses without forgetting that the PJ is a forest type.

There is a need to issue firewood permits so they can be consolidated and given to certified local cutters who would be systematic in removal and the methods used.

There is a need to better restrict activities that potentially cause soil impairment. Most of our soils are very delicate and easily damaged. The soils should have priority. Eroded, unproductive landscapes are of little use to people and the environment.

There is a need to recognize the effects of climate change and to prepare for the inevitable environmental changes that are already happening. This is the most significant overall change since the original plan was drafted.

There is a need to organize volunteer youth to learn how to take care of their forest into the future.