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January 12, 2015

Ms. Elaine B. Kohrman
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest
2113 Osuna Road NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

Re: File Code: 1920

Dear Ms. Kohrman:

Upon a visit to the Magdalena Forest office I was made aware of the land reviews that are currently taking place for the possible expansion of wilderness area in the Cibola Forest and more particularly located in the region of the Nogal Canyon allotment. This indicates expansion of the current Apache Kid Wilderness in the vicinity of hundreds of acres of my private real estate.

Let me make it unequivocally clear I am against any expansion of wilderness areas.

I have been the permittee of this allotment for the last 30 years so I have had an opportunity to observe the lack of utilization by the public of the forest land of the Apache Kid wilderness.

- The trail system has had no maintenance and deteriorated to the point that you cannot find it in many areas and this is primarily due to lack of mechanical access in the wilderness areas.
- This wilderness area does not provide for any mechanical vehicle which would provide access for the senior seniors (baby boomers) who have limited mobility.
- In this area there exists springs which feed drinking tanks that can need to be maintained and the wilderness would not permit this by eliminating its vehicle access.
- I have hundreds of acres of real estate in this immediate area and the expansion of wilderness in the area would be very detrimental and limit the use for development which I plan on doing at some future date.
- For the last 30 years my daughters have sponsored endurance rides utilizing some of the roads and trails in this region. Permit systems have evolved requiring them to have a permit to sanction this type of public participation. The wilderness makes it much more difficult or eliminates it from taking place.

I have heard reports that wilderness area increases the economic potential in the region that it takes place. Over the last 30 years I have seen none of this but actually a reversal and reduction by the use of



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the public. Therefore, there are many more reasons not to justify the wilderness regions under the idea of protecting them for the future. The wilderness region probably reduces this utilization by the public by about 90%. I would like to express my thanks to the forest service staff in Magdalena for making me aware of this as well as utilizing these points in making recommendations against expansion of the wilderness areas.

Please keep me advised of future meetings and hearing dates so that I may participate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eddie Binns", with a stylized, cursive script.

Eddie Binns

EB/cg

Cc: Senator Tom Udall

Cc: Senator Martin Heinrich

Cc: Representative Steve Pierce