

9/22/15

Elaine Kurhman,

Please do not designate Zuni Mountain polygon D2 5K6 as a wilderness area. It has trees, forbs, and grasses that are common in the rest of the Zuni Mountains and Cibola National Forest. There are also species of animals there that are common to the rest of the forest.

Many other areas in the Zuni Mountains contain Spruce trees. But these trees and other species of trees could be totally lost in the event of a forest fire in a wilderness because motorized fire-fighting equipment would not be allowed in. Even though some say you could get special permission in special circumstances, you still have to ask the proper authorities and in the meanwhile the fire continues to burn and could burn towards private property. It could take days to get approval for motorized equipment to come in. There could be dire consequences. It is not fair to endanger my family, me, my property and my livestock. That would jeopardize my livelihood.

Please do not designate any part of the Zuni Mountains as a wilderness. We have been taking care of the forest because we appreciate it and respect the forest.

Rocky M. Lopez