



November 20th, 2014

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

Re: Inventory of lands potentially suitable for wilderness

Dear Supervisor Kohrman,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the inventorying of lands potentially suitable for wilderness, which is part of your Forest Revision. This letter contains the formal comments of the International Mountain Bicycling Association (IMBA).

Founded in 1988, IMBA leads national and worldwide mountain bicycling communities through a network of 80,000 individual supporters, 600 dealer members, and 175 local Chapters. IMBA teaches sustainable trail building techniques and has become a leader in trail design, construction, and maintenance. IMBA encourage responsible riding, volunteer trail work, and cooperation among trail user groups and land managers. Each year, IMBA members and supporting organizations conduct nearly one million hours of volunteer trail stewardship on America's public land and are some of the best assistants to federal, state, and local land managers.

IMBA applauds the efforts of the Cibola National Forest management team for seeking input from the local communities, federal, tribal, state and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations and the general public in regards to inventorying the lands within the Cibola National Forest that will be considered during the revision of the forest plan. We are pleased to see that the Zuni Mountain Bike Trail System Project has been included in the draft inventorying process. This area is of particular importance to the mountain bike community as it provides a unique experience for an identified user group. We recently met with local mountain bike advocates in Gallup, NM and discussed the Zuni Mountains system, and we understand that around 50 miles of non-system trails in the Hilso area will be adopted into the official inventory, and that these trails will be open to bicycles. We also understand that around 150 miles of new trail construction will also be approved, and that again these new trails will be open to bicycles. We appreciate both of these steps, in bringing desired trails into the system and also allowing for new trail development which could incorporate the best practices in sustainable trail design and construction, including 'bike optimized' trails. We would also request that all other trails

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that are currently open to bikes maintain that status, or indeed are reviewed for maintenance and reconstruction needs in order to improve sustainability.

It is exciting to see the Forest Service using an innovative mapping tool to accept comments and discuss land use planning concepts. IMBA's MTBproject.com is a trails database specific to mountain biking. This database features detailed ride descriptions and photos, and is professionally curated by a team of content reviewers to ensure that trail descriptions are detailed and only legal trails are being populated. We would like the opportunity to work with the Forest Service on these mapping initiatives cultivating data between the two platforms to establish the best shared information of a trail network between MTBproject.com and the Forest Service mapping initiative.

We look forward to participating in the next phase of the plan revision process; the Elevation Phase in early 2015. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Identification and Inventorying Phase of the planning process. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

Sincerely,

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International Mountain Bicycling Association
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