**Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts**

***Comment Form for use with***

***Preliminary Draft Plan, Wilderness Process Paper, and all maps***

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| **Document Reviewed (draft plan, wilderness process paper, map)** | **Resource Section** | **Page #** | **Line #** | **Comment** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Summary of Management Situation | 11 | 19-20 | CPSWCD has not found reference throughout the plan in all resource areas how all resource management should be prioritized given the varying levels of funding  |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Forest-Wide Plan Components and Management ApproachesWildland Urban Interface |  21 |  9 |  Stand changing catastrophic wildfire often shifts the dominant plant community to a mono culture of low shrub. The arid and drought effected areas have shown little tree or grass regeneration thus effecting the upper watershed for soil stabilization and diversity |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Forest-Wide Plan Components and Management ApproachesGeneral Management of all Vegetation Types – Management Approaches |  27 |  2 | Coordinate with local SWCDs (local government) for project management using their Land Use Plans and Community Wildfire Protection Plan |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Groundwater – Management Approaches |  57 |  33 |  “Collaborate with external groups” – this wording approach is expertly written and should be used for all resource management approaches |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Non-Native Invasive Species – Management Approach |  72 |  13 | Special Annual Monitoring and work with public to identify present of feral hogs within the forest |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Range and Grazing – Guidelines | 81 | 27 | In front of the word “Shrub” insert “palatable” |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Range and Grazing - Guidelines |  82 |  1 | Livestock acclamation to a new grazing area may cause a one year calf crop loss to the producer. New areas are high risk due to all the unknown factors including topography. Cattle will not know the country and will tend to stay bunched together. Water resources may be very limiting on a vacant allotment. Cattle may bring in new weeds and organisms to a new location. New NEPA may be required to reestablish grazing on certain allotments. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Range and Grazing – Management Approaches | 82 |  | Coordinate the planning, development and funding of new range improvement projects with the local SWCDs and NRCS. This may also require the development of a Coordinated Resource Management Plan working with the permittees, forest service resource specialists (multiple use) and the entities listed above. |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Range and Grazing – Management Approach | 83 | 7 | Livestock are not an appropriate control agent for noxious and invasive weeds |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Rural and Historic Communities – Background and Description | 89 |  30 | Preceding Rural Communities European descent individuals settled lands for ranching, mining and farming and their families became the communities across rural New Mexico. |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Rural and Historic Communities – Management Approaches | 90 |  10 | Coordinate Land use restoration and sustainable land use with local SWCDs who are authorized under State Statute to work across the landscape with the historical communities and the Forest Service. |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Land Ownership Adjustment and Boundary Management - Management Approaches |  95 |  13? | The 300+ acre private land inholding within the Manzano Wilderness that does not have legal road access. This private land ownership predates Forest Service and is the perennial water source for the proposed Tajique Creek W&SR. |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Recreation – Management Approaches | 108 |  37 |  Post more discrete (small) signs for roads, boundary and legal public access to forest areas.  |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Management Areas and Designated Areas | 127 | 23 |  Proposing “cienega” in the Manzano mountains on the Barranca Allotment for special management consideration. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers | 136 | 5 | How will this affect the private land and water rights that control the source of this water? |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “B”Mountainair Ranger District | 179 | 16 | CPSWCD agrees this is a unique scenic, botanical, recreational area within the Manzano mountains. CPSWCD would support 4th of July Canyon as a special management area, but there has to be consideration of the socio-economic impact on the private landowner’s inholding within the Manzano Wilderness. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “B” Mountainair Ranger District | 179 | 32 | Gross Kelly is a closed 15,000 acre allotment closed by EA with 11,000 acres containing 30-40% rocky slopes that are not be suitable for grazing cattle. There is no reliable perennial water to support livestock grazing and the area contains many rocky steep arroyos.  |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “B” Mountainair Ranger District |  |  | The portion of the Gross Kelly allotment that is 30-40% rocky slopes is suitable for Big Horn Sheep habitat. Big Horn Sheep have been observed in this area, which is part of the Ojo Peak Fire burn scar. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “B” Mountainair Ranger District | 181 | D4 ADJ7D4 ADJ8 | These areas are important public parking areas and provide an important buffer to the existing wilderness. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “D” Mountainair Ranger District | 183 | D4 ADJ7D4 ADJ7 | These areas are important public parking areas and provide an important buffer to the existing wilderness. |
|  Preliminary Draft Forest Plan |  Alternative “E” Mountainair Ranger District | 186 |  D4\_ADJ4 |  This area is adjacent to the Isleta Thinning Project and is used as a car camping area for recreationists.  |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “E” Mountainair Ranger District | 186 | D4\_ADJ1 | This area is used by the private land owner and the Pueblo of Isleta for livestock and fire management. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “E” Mountainair Ranger District | 186 | D4\_ADJ2 | Parking lot for the Encino trailhead, public parking lot and contains allotment range water development and associated access trails. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “E” Mountainair Ranger District | 186 | Portion D4\_5K2 | This area is a part of the 2004 Lookout Fire and the upland portion is degraded into low growing shrubs and bare gravelly soils. May not possess wilderness characteristics. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “E” Mountainair Ranger District | 186 | D4\_ADJ7 | These areas are important public parking areas and provide an important buffer to the existing wilderness. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “E” Mountainair Ranger District | 186 | D4\_ADJ8 | These areas are important public parking areas and provide an important buffer to the existing wilderness. |
| Preliminary Draft Forest Plan | Alternative “B” Mountainair Ranger District | 180 | Gallinas Watershed | CPSWCD supports this management area designation given the importance as a priority watershed for the municipal water serving the Village of Corona  |
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