

 Merced De Comunidad De San Antonio De Las Huertas

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 **August 29, 2016**

**US Forest Service Comments:**

The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant has reviewed the Plan Revision that was updated July 2016 and have the following comments listed in order of importance:

1. While reviewing the maps for the Sandia District the Wild and Scenic River proposed area in the Las Huertas Canyon became a concern to the Land Grant community. The historic significance and historic water rights of this area are will be impacted by this designation. Our concern is the multi-layered designations in this area and how the Wild and Scenic River Designation will impact or better said trump the other designations. Ultimately our main concern is to protect the water resources and the canyon from fire. With the Wild and Scenic River designation this will impact the treatment of this area and also restrict the restoration projects. We the Land Grant have contributed countless hours protecting the cultural resources in this area through this revision process, and if this proposed designation goes into effect all of the countless hours will have been contributed will be wasted. The Forest Service provided the “process” for which the proposed Wild and Scenic River was selected. Currently, we have wilderness designation, Traditional and Cultural Property Rights and water rights, and are concerned that this will again place restrictions on the canyon that will tie our efforts to prevent fire and restoration projections.
2. Under Alternative B – Sandia Ranger District a third category needs to be added:

Communal Grazing –

* 1. One area in northeast portion of Sandia Ranger District and another area south of I-40 and west of highway 337.

Restore historical communal grazing boundaries of the Cedro (Canon de Carnue) Land Grant, the San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant and the San Pedro Land Grant.

1. In support of Carnue we would like the following comment to be added page 181 under Alternative B, a new section needs to be added to specify the Canon de Carnue with the following statement: protection of traditional cultural properties, traditional cultural uses, watershed, acequias and drinking water.

The area described above is an historical water source and needs to be specified as being a protected resource.

1. Under Alterative D it lists grazing under the Sandia Ranger District, but it is not represented on the map.

The Board of Trustees, San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant