

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HIDALGO COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

DARR SHANNON
MARIANNE STEWART
RICHARD CHAIRES



COUNTY MANAGER

BOB HILL

August 30, 2016

Elaine Kohrman, Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands
2113 Osuna, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

comments-southwestern-Cibola@fs.fed.us

Dear Ms. Kohrman:

Greetings from Hidalgo County, New Mexico

Please accept this letter as Hidalgo County, New Mexico's comments regarding the Cibola Forest Revision Plan. The Cibola National Forest does not include any lands within the boundary of Hidalgo County, but we, the Hidalgo County Commissioners of New Mexico do feel that decisions made in any National Forest, definitely do affect us, and will continue to affect us in the future.


We depend upon the livestock industry for the majority of our tax base. Hidalgo County strongly stresses the importance of health, safety, and welfare of all of its citizens.


Based on what information we have regarding this revision plan, we want to support Alternative C. We, as responsible Commissioners of our county are tired of watching thousands of acres of forest depleted because of catastrophic fires throughout the United States. The protection that designating wilderness areas is supposed to give, creates over-growth of trees, brush, and plants....the perfect mix for a massive wildfire. Custom and culture should be of value regarding the citizens of the United States, including ranchers, hunters, recreationalists, wood cutters/gatherers due to the fact that these people routinely utilize these lands... and Alternative C would enhance this.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Respectfully,


Marianne Stewart
Chairman
Hidalgo Co. Commission


Darr Shannon
Member
Hidalgo Co. Commission


Richard Chaires
Member
Hidalgo Co. Commission