
From: Bookfanatic [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 6:49 AM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: [External Email]Guadalupe Cave Resource Protection Area Mineral Withdrawal

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Please block oil drilling from the Lincoln National Forest in the Guadalupe Ranger District, which contains a sensitive cave system, located about 30 miles southwest of Carlsbad, between Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountains National Park in Eddy County. Extraction operations in this area could impact a complex network of caves in the area that offer recreational opportunities, and support myriad wildlife.

Species of bats, birds and insects rely on the caves for habitat, and Indigenous artifacts were once found in the caves. Earth disturbing activities associated with mining and oil drilling could irreparably damage sensitive cave environments. Bones of an extinct bison species have been found, along with ancient bears and ground sloths, and the Forest Service believes the area could prove useful for the studying of microbiology.

Also, the Guadalupe Ridge Trail, a hiking trail connecting the Carlsbad Caverns and Guadalupe Mountain national parks with Lincoln National Forest, runs through the resource area, where I and my friends often enjoy a hike, especially in the fall when the leaves turn. We have hiked and caved in the area, and would not like to see it spoiled for future generations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Rusciolelli
[REDACTED]