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First name: Robert J.

Last name: Selina

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Ms. Browne,

Please consider the following comments regarding the draft forest plan revision for the Cibola National Forest.

I am an avid user of the Magdalena ranger district forest as a mountain biker and hiker. I am especially concerned with maintaining access for mechanized travel (i.e., bicycles), which is my preferred way of enjoying the forest and to which many of our trails are suitable. I therefore do not support any plan that extends wilderness designation to areas with existing trails suitable for mountain biking.

I would like to express my support for Alternative A as this presents the least uncertainty in continued access by mountain bike.

I would also support Alternative C as this does not appear to expand areas designated as wilderness, and roadless inventoried areas should be managed to provide "semi-primitive non-motorized" recreation settings.

Alternative D is acceptable so long as mountain bike access on existing trails is maintained within the Backcountry Wildlife Conservation Area. I could find little to explain how this area would be managed in Chapter 3 of the draft plan, and would ask that it be elaborated to make clear that mechanized travel within this managed area is permitted, prior to finalizing the plan.

Alternative B is of concern as it would make a number of existing trails inaccessible by mountain bike:

*D3 ADJ8: Includes trails that I've ridden and enjoyed: TR31 and TR43. Also cuts out what's left of TR69 (outside existing wilderness boundaries).

*D3 ADJ8.b: Seems to include the area around Black Mountain. Drift Fence Canyon trail crosses this area, and East Red canyon seems to make up the border.

*D3 ADJ8.c: Includes trail 68, and possibly others.

I would like to strongly oppose Alternative E. Areas D3 5K2 and D3 5K3 are of highest concern. Mesa Trail, Six Mile, South Canyon, Hop Canyon 25/25A, and North Baldy trail could all be affected in the Magdalena Mountains. These are relatively high-use trails by local mountain bikers and would present a significant loss of recreation opportunities within the district.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Selina

Socorro, NM