Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2016 12:00:00 AM
First name: Randell
Last name: Major
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands
Attn: Elaine Kohrman, Forest Supervisor
2113 Osuna Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113
RE: Cibola Forest Revision Plan. Comment deadline August 31st, 2016
To Whom it May Concern;
My name is Randell Major, me and my family live, ranch, and work near Magdalena, NM. We also have a grazing Permit north of Datil, NM. We and our community depend on income produced from our local area to survive. The Forest Plan Revision will have a negative impact on us directly.
I am supporting Alternative C.
My family and I support of this alternative C because:
? Alternative C removes all Management Areas.
? Any additional designations will impact current tax status of lands, severely hurting the counties who are responsible for the safety and welfare of those living in the county.
? Alternative C allows handicapped people to access and enjoy public lands.
? In Alternative C, a greater amount of people get to use public lands.
? Our area should continue to be managed in a multiple use plan where our communities can cut fire wood to warm their homes, hunt for food, enjoy as recreation, and ranch to help support family businesses and a local economy. Alternative C allows that.
? Alternative C appears to be the best approach for preventing further and future catastrophic fires. More designation of wilderness will only increase over-growth with no way to address fires because of the "untrammeled by man" mandate in the Wilderness Act of 1964.
? Alternative C will require less law enforcement and other personnel needed by the government to manage additional designations. It's obvious that current funding is inadequate to manage lands now under federal designation. Every effort must be made to reduce the $19 trillion debt that shadows Americans.
? Alternative C respects the investments of both federal natural resources agencies and land stewards in infrastructure that supports both wildlife and domestic animals.
? Allotment owners who pay for their access and improvements on their allotments have not been included or consulted in this process that can have dramatic consequences for their families and small business.
? Written documentation does not match the maps provided. Maps contain areas of designation that are not mentioned in the written document.
? There is an overall lack of clarity in this document and its' potential on allotment owners and land stewards. Allotment owners have a legal contract with the U.S. government and hold waters rights under New Mexico state law.
? All other alternatives create additional unfunded mandates to allotment owners.
? All other alternatives present access issues for land stewards to their contracted allotments, working facilities and watering facilities. Once a wilderness is in place it will make it difficult for ranchers to access and maintain the water systems for their livestock.
? The location and proximity to public highways, communities and facilities of Alternatives B, D and E are impractical to be considered wilderness and special designation options.
? Our area is not suitable for wilderness designation. There are windmills, water storage tanks and pipeline systems that will continue the need to be maintained. Once the water systems go down so does the grazing and wildlife. Most ranchers want to expand and improve the water systems on the public lands. Why does the government stop or slow down a rancher from burying a

pipeline to keep it from freezing in the winter. These frozen water lines hinder grazing management resulting in a lack of flexibility and over all grazing coverage. The government should not be creating barriers that will hinder or stop such a precious commodity as water for the livestock and wildlife.

Thank you for your time. Sincerely,

Randell Major
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