Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/11/2016 12:00:00 AM
First name: Kyle
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: I have lived in the Albuquerque area almost my entire life and recreation is my primary connection to the forest within the Sandia Ranger District. I dirt bike, mountain bike, hike, ski, and within the forest and, as the forest is currently managed, I think it does a great job balancing these uses so that everyone can enjoy the forest together. In reviewing, the proposed maps for the Sandia Ranger District, the only comment I really have is with respect to the proposed communal grazing in Alternative D and E. The Cedro area is near busy roads, has many houses nearby, and I am worried about what would need to be done to the area to maintain grazing. This action would require fencing to be put up throughout the area and would really limit the overall beauty of the area. Also with such heavy recreation I would be worried about use conflicts between livestock and users. Lastly, as a user of these areas I have seen the power of erosion. The area is already eroding in parts and I don't think livestock that removes vegetation would help any. For me within the Sandia RD, I think that Alternatives A, B, or C make the most sense.
A few specific comments:
Page 11, Lines 18-20
"The District offers a variety of day-use recreational opportunities including biking, hiking, picnicking, and viewing scenery along the Sandia Crest Highway. Mountain biking is experiencing the biggest growth among all activities."
I feel has the vision statement is currently limited, the multi-use aspect of the forest is underrepresented. Something should be said about the motor vehicle use including motorcycles and 4x4 as recreation activities. For example,
"The District offers a variety of day-use recreational opportunities including biking, hiking, picnicking, off-highway motoring, and viewing scenery along the Sandia Crest Highway. Mountain biking is experiencing the biggest growth among all activities but represents only a part of the multi-use platform."
Page 114, Lines 10-12
New motorized trails should be located to avoid Mexican spotted owl protected activity centers, northern goshawk post-fledging family areas, and other wildlife areas as identified; seasonal restrictions may be an option. While I understand the conservation aspect of limiting trails within protected habitats, the statement "and other wildlife area as identified" is overly vague and could be misconstrued as a method to prevent new motorized trails from being developed.
Sincerely,
Kyle Fuerschbach
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