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First name: Russell

Last name: Walraven

Organization: Rock Hill Ranch

Title: Allotment Owners

Comments: August 25, 2016

Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands

Attn: Elaine Kohrman, Forest Supervisor

2113 Osuna Rd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87113

RE:Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts

Revised Land and Resource Management Plan #46268

Comment deadline August 31st, 2016

Ms. Kohrman,

The following comments are submitted by Russell and Melynda Walraven. We are Cibola Forest Service Rock Hill allotment owners. We also own several deeded sections in Catron County. Ranching has been a way of life for our family for several generations. The actions contemplated in this Forest Plan Revision directly impact our way of life by potentially reducing access to our property as well as the devaluation of our property.

As allotment owners, we know the options being proposed have specific and considerable impact on our ability to manage this property.

Based on the information available at this time, we support Alternative C.

The following clarifies the reasons we support Alternative C:

*This alternative appears to be the best approach for preventing further and future catastrophic fires. More designation of wilderness will only increase/lead to increasing over-growth with no way to address fires because of the "untrammeled by man" mandate in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

*Alternative C removes all Management Areas.

*Any additional designations dramatically impact current tax status of lands, severely hammering the counties who are responsible for the safety and welfare of those residing in the county or visiting counties.

*Alternative C does not discriminate against those who must travel by a wheeled device due to physical disability.

*Alternative C provides for the use of federal lands by the greatest amount of the population.

*Alternative C minimizes the number of law enforcement and other personnel needed by the government to manage additional designations. It is clear 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 custom and culture of all New Mexico ranchers, wood gathers, hunters, fishermen and many others who routinely utilize these lands.

*Alternative C respects the investments of both federal natural resources agencies and land stewards in infrastructure that supports both wildlife and domestic animals.

General comments about this process:

*Impacted 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 mention 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.

*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.

Respectfully,

Russell and Melynda Walraven
Allotment Owners
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CC: Governor Suzanna Martinez
Representative Steve Pearce
Representative Don Tripp
County Commissioner Anita Hand
County Commissioner Glyn Griffin
County Commissioner Bucky Allred
Dennis Aldridge, Magdalena Ranger District
Tina Cason, Magdalena Ranger District