

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/31/2016 12:00:00 AM

First name: Mike

Last name: Madden

Organization: East Mountain Regional Trails Council

Title: Co-Founder

Comments: Cibola N.F. "Preliminary" Draft Plan Comments by Mike Madden, East Mountain Regional Trails Council(EMRTC) co-founder, 30 Stagecoach Trail, Sandia Park, NM 87047, 505-281-3393, mikemadden52@gmail.com , submitted August 31, 2016

These comments focus on the Sandia Ranger District.

Using Comment Tools, "How to Comment" section on the Cibola website as a guideline:

Products on which we(Cibola) are seeking comment:

* Preliminary Draft Plan

A front page article in the August 18 Mountain View Telegraph newspaper titled "Public talks end on forest plan" states For the Sandia Ranger District, forest officials are still crafting a general vision statement in the plan, but have given its niche statement as, "Albuquerque's Backyard Playground". This Backyard Playground theme should resonate throughout the plan.

Chapter 2, page 113, lines 13&14, trails should provide linkages to local neighborhoods, communities, and other public lands. The Sandia Perimeter Trail concept supports all three of these objectives.

Chapter 2, page 115, lines 9&10, the Perimeter Trail would be the ultimate loop.

Chapter 2, page 115, add to Management Approaches, to engage local agencies, community organizations, user groups and other partners when planning new trail routing or rerouting, construction or closure.

* Preliminary Draft Plan Alternatives & maps

Alternative B is a good choice for Preliminary Draft Plan(Proposed Action). It adds no New Recommended Wilderness Areas to the Sandia Ranger District.

* Preliminary Draft Plan Management Areas & maps

Why is the East Mountains Outdoor Education/Recreation Management Area being proposed?

Page 181, lines 11-19 don't seem to describe anything more than would be serviced by regular N.F. land, which exists in the 'no change' Alternative A. So why make extra work with a special designation?

* Phase 3 Wilderness Inventory & Areas with Wilderness Character maps

On the area identified in D5_ADJ9, the southern ? of the rectangular portion is described as Semi-Primitive Motorized as shown on the Recreation Opportunity Spectrum inventory map, as commented below. This is inconsistent with having Wilderness Character. Proximity to the high volume of traffic on I-40 and private property degrade the wilderness characteristics in the area. The area is described as a "northern buffer" but instead should be managed as National Forest acting as a necessary buffer between private property and the wilderness. This area currently allows and should continue to allow local residents the opportunity for wheeled recreation, including those with handicaps requiring wheeled methods of conveyance.

On the area identified in D5_ADJ4, it should be managed as other Forest areas outside of the wilderness.

Proximity to the 10k North Trail and Ellis Trail, currently open to wheeled, non-motorized means of conveyance, including those of handicapped users, make this area a potential location for a connector trail down to Sandia Man Cave. Providing for future sustainable trail network improvements for public access and recreation should be an important component of the Forest Plan. Most of the Sandia Mountains are already designated as wilderness, with trails (many poorly designed and unsustainable) that cannot be used by mountain bikers or the handicapped in wheeled conveyances, either wheelchairs or handcycles.

* Process Paper on Inventory and Evaluation of Lands that may be Suitable for Inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System (NWPS)

No comment.

* Evaluation Narratives for Inventory and Evaluation of Lands that may be Suitable for Inclusion in the NWPS

No comment.

* Process Paper on Wild and Scenic River Eligibility

No comment.

* Eligible Wild and Scenic River maps

No comment.

* Scenery Management System inventory maps (Scenic Integrity Levels)

No comment.

* Recreation Opportunity Spectrum inventory maps

The map shows the northern ? of the rectangular portion of D5_ADJ9 as Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized, and the southern ? as Semi-Primitive Motorized.

* At-Risk Species Determination Process and Rationale document

No comment.