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Title:

Comments: Comments on CNF Mountain Ranger Districts Plan Revision

Elaine and Crystal,

Attached, please find my comments on the Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts Plan Revision: Preliminary Draft Land and Resource Management Plan.

Thank you both for your willingness to meet with Chris Norton and myself this coming Wednesday at 4:00 PM to discuss the cross country ski trails at the top of the Sandias. I look forward to seeing you then.

And, of course, thank you for all of the work that you do as our local Forest Management Team. Please know that it is truly appreciated.

Take care,

Scott Dietrich

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Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts

Comment Form for use with

Preliminary Draft Plan, Wilderness Process Paper, and all maps

Document Reviewed (draft plan, wilderness process paper, map)Resource SectionPage #Line #Comment
DRAFT PLANIntroduction

Vision and Niche Statements

Sandia Ranger District

107Current Niche Statement: "Albuquerque's Backyard Playground"

Would like to see the Niche statement be more reflective of the fact that the Sandia's offer year-round recreational opportunities. Something along the lines of:

"Albuquerque's Four Season Playground" or "Albuquerque's Year Round Playground"

DRAFT PLANIntroduction

Vision and Niche Statements

Sandia Ranger District

1021-23Please include cross country skiing and snowshoeing among the recreational opportunities listed. Would

also like to see a reference to the fact that xc skiing is experiencing tremendous growth, similar to the statement about Mountain Biking. Additionally, there is an opportunity throughout this Niche section to highlight the fact that the Sandias experience a tremendous amount of activity in the winter. For example, the Capulin snow play area is not even mentioned.

DRAFT PLANIntroduction

Summary of the Management Situation1124-26 Last statement of Throughout the Plan paragraph reads: "There is a need to better recognize and potentially enhance the role of the Cibola National Forest in supporting local economies through both commodity production and services-such as recreation and tourism."

While it is probably not within the scope of this Forest Plan document, I would like to point out that if Nordic skiing (including the skate skiing style) continues to grow in the Sandias - and this growth is helped by the Forest Service's continued commitment to reasonable growth and development of xc ski trails - there is a very real possibility of a Nordic Ski shop opening in the Cedar Crest area.

DRAFT PLANIntroduction

Summary of the Management Situation

Valuing Unique Places and Features1336Recommend changing end of sentence on this line from "... and outdoor play and exercise." To "... and year-round outdoor play and exercise."

DRAFT PLANIntroduction

Summary of the Management Situation

Managing for Sustainable Recreation 14 12-19 This section highlights the FS desire to work with the community in a collaborative way. I just want to reiterate that there are a number of individuals in the community who are willing to provide recommendations and guidance on ways that cross country ski trails can be modified or perhaps newly constructed. These individuals are also willing to volunteer and provide labor to help with the process. I am happy to serve as a point of contact for this group, and can be reached at the following email: scott_and_carla@mac.com

DRAFT PLANChapter 2

Recreation

Desired Conditions106 35-39 Please include cross country skiing and snowshoeing among the examples of recreational opportunities.

DRAFT PLANChapter 2

General Recreation

Management Approaches108 16-19 "Develop relationships with local communities, partnerships, volunteers, other government agencies, cooperators, and permit holders to help co-manage a sustainable recreation program, including planning, design, implementation, and operations and maintenance. Recognize partners for their roles in providing recreational opportunities when possible."

As mentioned 2 rows up, there are a wealth of highly experienced cross country skiers who would be HAPPY to provide input, guidance and physical labor to help the Forest Service with planning and development of the xc ski trails.

DRAFT PLANChapter 2

Developed Recreation

Management Approaches 11037-38 "Provide design narratives for projects to determine the appropriate location, capacity, and type of facilities required to meet user needs in the context of the forest setting."

Echo point made in previous row...

DRAFT PLAN Appendix D

Proposed Management Areas and Draft Alternatives

Alternative B

Sandia Ranger District

East Mountains Outdoor Education/

Recreation MA 18116-17 Recommend changing last sentence from "Encourage outdoor recreation and exploration." to "Encourage year-round outdoor recreation and exploration."