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Comments: Comments on Draft revision plan for Cibola

Attached are my comments.

Ron McCurley

Albuquerque

Draft Plan

Introduction, Vision and Niche Statements

Sandia ranger district, page 10, lines 22,23

Please add "skiing (both alpine and Nordic) and snow shoeing (during the winter months)" Also emphasize both of these activities are seeing significant growth especially Nordic skiing on groomed trails (including classic and freestyle).

Draft Plan

Introduction, Summary of the management Situation

Sandia ranger district, page 12, lines 36-38

Recommend statements regarding a need for better management of winter activities in high use areas (e.g. Capulin snowplay and area bounded on south and north by hwy 536 and Sandia Peak ski area, and on east and west by 10K trail and top of mountain (or west at least to tram service rd). There are numerous winter snow activities in this latter area some of which may be conflicting or present significant safety issues without some common sense easily implemented guidelines which might include appropriate guidelines and educational signage, volunteer participation (especially in groomed areas).

Draft Plan

Plan Components, page 15, lines 22-27

Under suitability of lands: More specificity needed. For example effects of topography, seasonal change (availability of consistent snow cover). How might climate change affect suitability?

Draft Plan

Plan Components, page 15, lines 22-27

Under "management areas: identify high use areas for more intense management.

Draft Plan

Chapter 2, page 106, lines 22-30

Please add phrases describing additional winter activities including skiing (both alpine and Nordic), snow shoeing, snowplay (sledding, tubing, snow boarding, etc.). The "recreation opportunity spectrum classes" do not seem to accommodate activities in a groomed area (e.g. sledding, alpine and Nordic skiing, snowboarding). Some comments regarding advantages of signage (guidance, courtesy) especially in high use areas seem appropriate.

Draft Plan

Chapter 4, page 143, All

This chapter should address (amongst others) suitability for winter activities (i.e. availability of consistent snow over a majority of the winter season). Certain activities including skiing (alpine, Nordic) include topographic features as well (although different). Suitability also needs to account for the nearby large population center,

access to the areas (eg developed roadways, Sandia Peak tramway), and trail design limitations and advantages in the area utilized.

Draft Plan

Chapter 5, page 144, ?

Should effects of climate change be included in this chapter? What about monitoring use and satisfaction from public use (volunteers or even local businesses such as REI might be utilized in this regard).

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Appendix C. page 171, All

Management should include addressing such issues as public safety (when recreating), guidelines for use in recreational areas, etiquette education, and signage to facilitate these goals. Also trail design should be addressed (e.g. trail use, maintenance, etc.). Use of volunteers for design, maintenance and educational aspects to enhance recreation enjoyment and sustainability.

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Appendix D, pages 172, 173 All

Alternative B is the most applicable for the Sandias and proximity of large population center.