

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/4/2021 8:38:07 PM

First name: Laura

Last name: Doth

Organization: South Central Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc.

Title: Executive Director

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Lincoln National Forest Plan Revision. The South Central Mountain Resource Conservation & Development Council has been actively working in Lincoln and Otero Counties since 1968. Our purpose has been to complete projects that create healthy forests and improve the quality of life for area residents.

Attached you will find detailed comments and the rational behind those comments for the proposed Lincoln National Forest Plan Revision. We would appreciate your careful consideration of these comments.

Our biggest concern is the expansion of the wilderness areas within the Lincoln National Forest. The majority of the identified areas do not meet the strict definitions for qualifying as wilderness.

1. Many of these areas are range allotments containing fences, livestock pens, windmills, roads, etc. to support livestock grazing with a defined human presence.
2. The plan has used "creative" mapping in these areas to claim these areas are roadless. However, "Cherry Stemming" roads and private land holdings do not make these areas roadless.
3. In fact, Appendix B identified many of these areas with both non-motorized and motorized roads indicating a significant human presence.
4. Appendix B also identified areas that would have to be modified, human improvements removed, in order to be classified as a wilderness.
5. If areas with range allotments were made into wilderness this would make it almost impossible for the Forest Service and permittees to realize the benefits of the Adaptive Management processes promoted by this plan.
6. Making these areas wilderness areas does not recognize or the economic, social economic, cultural uses, and fire prevention tactics of the multi-use lands.

We appreciate your consideration.