

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/25/2015 5:04:24 PM

First name: William G.

Last name: Bryan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: "Landscape: restore to 1906 wilderness no

In 1904 NMSU Professor E. O. Wooten passed through the Gallinas Mountains on a long trip of planned observations. The pass was long and open.... the most heterogenous mix of mountain and mesa plants I have ever seen...(range) in good condition...has been dry

The zones dominated bi Pinon and Ponderosa Pine were both open. The landscape was that of a typical Rocky Mountain Ponderosa Pine forest, first illustrated by Merriam in 1890. See Tales from Corona and More by June Tyree. (Volume II Page 185). Quite a few years after 1904 the landscape is still relatively open with scattered large trees.

The landscape should be restored to its condition of Forest Service founding.

With the advent of the Forest Service and fire suppression trees increased in density in the Gallinas Mountains. As the dense trees grew taller they suppressed all other vegetation and became vulnerable to fire.

In the regions of the Gallinas Mountains where fires hadn't burned for over 100 years over 99% of the trees were killed in the 1996, 2001 and 2004 fires.

Regions not burned since before 1900 now possess a great many sick and dying trees.

Wilderness "a region essentially undisturbed by human activity together with its naturally developed life community."

The Gallinas Mts. region is not and cannot be a wilderness unless the 1906 landscape is restored.

P.S. Quite a few species had been suppressed so long that natural regeneration was almost non-existent. big Bluestem and Indian grasses and the shrub Mountain Mahogany are three of those.