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First name: Oscar

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cibola NF - SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT WILDERNESS COMMENTS

September 25, 2015

Mr. Champe Green, Forest Planner
Mrs. Elaine Kohrman, Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands
2113 Osuna Rd. NE.
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Comments sent via email: <mailto:comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us> comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us

Re: Comments on lands that may be suitable for wilderness - Sandia Ranger District

Dear Mr. Green:

Please accept our comments pertaining to the Cibola National Forest's proposed wilderness inventory and evaluation process for the Sandia Ranger District. We take this opportunity to congratulate the Cibola National Forest for an outstanding effort to facilitate public input on the forest plan revision process and encouraging organizations and individuals to work cooperatively.

The Forest service's inventory and evaluation of lands that may be suitable for wilderness in the Sandia Ranger District are as follows: D5_ADJ1.b - 48.6 acres, D5_ADJ2 - 271.1 acres, D5_ADJ3 - 94.8 acres, D5_ADJ14b - 1,664.2 acres, D5_ADJ4.c - 6.3 acres, D5_ADJ5 - 1216.7 acres, D5_ADJ6 - 735.6 acres, D5_ADJ10.b - 79.5 acres, D5_ADJ9 - 332.6 acres, D5_ADJ8 - 69 acres, D5_ADJ7 - 4.9 acres and D4_5K275- 49.3 acres. These areas are illustrated on a Cibola National Forest map at the following Cibola National Forest web site:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3847656.pdf>

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Our organizations and respective membership support expanding wilderness areas in the Cibola national forest under the right conditions - socially, ecologically and geographically. The Sandia Ranger District has identified eleven (11) polygons or areas, as listed above, which could be added to the Sandia Wilderness if there is adequate public support and justification.

On behalf of: New Mexico Sportsmen, New Mexico Backcountry Hunters & Anglers and Backcountry Horsemen of New Mexico, we do not support adding any of the eleven wilderness areas-polygons to the Sandia Wilderness or be managed as wilderness in the Sandia Ranger District. The primary reasons, for our objection are:

1.

The eleven (11) proposed wilderness areas are small and would not significantly increase the size of the Sandia Wilderness.

2.

None or all of the proposed wilderness area would significantly improve wildlife habitat, ecologically, if added to

the Sandia Wilderness.

3.

There are a significant number of recreational users, example -bikers and other users, that would be restricted or lose access to these areas if they were managed as wilderness or became part of the Sandia Wilderness.

4.

We support other recreational users that oppose the addition of these wilderness areas to the Sandia Range District.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Oscar Simpson,
Co-Chair, New Mexico Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Chair, New Mexico Sportsmen
Public Lands/Legislative Chair, Back Country Horsemen of New Mexico
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