

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/25/2015 12:00:00 AM

First name: Anon

Last name: dcoyle@wildblue.net

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Forest plan revision comments

Attached, I hope, are the comments I am submitting today, 9/25/15, with regard to the Forest Plan Revision, Mt Taylor District. Please contact me if the comments are not accessible. Thanks. Dan Coyle

below text is copied from attachment:

pg2line1Leaves out sustainabilityStates "partnership" as "guiding principle" when it should be sustainability.

pg2line8Water use does not need to be "enhanced", but lessened.This forest is in need of measures to lessen water loss to transpiration and runoff. The Southwest is in a drought and predicted to get worse. Water pumped out of the Taylor District National Forest to support cattle or mining uses will degrade the chances of avoiding catastrophic fire and lessen the chance of the water table staying at a depth that can sustain existing ecosystems. The Zuni Mts are overgrazed in many places.

pg2line9"Access" does not trump multiuse nor sustainable.There are areas of a multi-use forest that have limitations on what type of vehicular access they have, if vehicles are allowed at all, and what activities may be done in the area. Undeveloped areas and wilderness areas are an important part of the balance of forest uses.

The unfettered use of vehicles on the dry, sparse and fragile ground cover of the District's Zuni Mts areas leaves marks that last for many decades, in my observation over 40 years.

Access does not mean that all areas should be open to motor or wheeled vehicles. As a past owner of ATV's and a wheelchair user for 43 years, I would point out that there are areas that are off limits to wheelchairs now, simply because they are not passable. That is as it should be, no one would suggest the forest should be made wheelchair accessible where it is not now. It makes no more sense to say that a wheelchair user should be able to violate a wilderness designated area in an ATV, simply because they could not get to it otherwise.

Diversity of use, from developed areas to wilderness areas and Terrain preservation needs must come before all-access or the forest will be degraded.

pg2line14Tourism requires undeveloped and wilderness areas.Undeveloped and wilderness areas are the visual attraction that appeals to tourists. Tourism is enhanced by a forest plan that includes lessened water use, development constrained by sustainability and undeveloped and wilderness areas.

The management of the forest should consider the possibility of even dryer times to come, based on climate science.

Preserving some wilderness areas now, such as the Zuni Mts areas D2 K52, D2 K53, D2 5K5 and D2 K56, is an all-too-tiny step in supporting current and future tourism. These forest areas will become increasingly unique as most other areas of our country develop rapidly.

Wilderness proposed area D2 5K6This canyon area is unique because of its surface water, which supports a rare

and fragile ecosystem that is particularly vulnerable to nearby development and anything that would lower the water table. This soft terrain is degraded by wheeled traffic and needs a wilderness protection. The few well-faded traces of previous human use do not detract from the spectacular area.

Areas D2 5K2, D2 5K3, and D2 5K5 These beautiful areas are a small part of the overall forest and are the only remaining land in the area qualifying for the designation of wilderness. Surely if they are not protected now, they will be developed, and the National Forest will have lost the ability to pass on what it inherited and was made protector of: a multi-use forest that includes wilderness and undeveloped areas.