

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/15/2015 12:00:00 AM

First name: Mary

Last name: Ray

Organization:

Title:

Comments: comments about Cibola Draft desired conditions

Please find attached. Photos are included. If you have trouble downloading, please let me know.

Thank you,

Mary Katherine Ray

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Magdalena vision statement

As written, it sounds like a recipe for exploitation.

Please revise to reflect changing conditions; cultural, economic, and environmental.

Suggested edits:

We, the Magdalena Landscape Team, support the vision of continued historical multiple uses including grazing, hunting, recreation such as hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, camping, etc, mining, and forest products while adapting to changing cultural, economic and environmental conditions. We also foster seek continued sustainability of the forest through responsible resource ecosystem management and support of the communities through responsible sustainable land and water development use, utilization of the forest and continued partnerships with research entities (specifically specifically the Magdalena Ridge Observatory and the Very Large Array).

And if not these edits then something that better reflects that the forest is not just something to be used but that provides ecosystem services such as wildlife habitat, clean water and air and carbon sequestration even when not used consumptively.

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401Riparian vegetation typesRiparian restoration should be a priority equal to fire management. When watersheds are impaired the entire system suffers.

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467Narrowleaf cottonwood/shrub live in West Red Canyon in the San Mateos. Every year the few cottonwoods that are still alive try to regenerate but the seedlings never make it- they are grazed and killed. There is an exclosure in the canyon at Hutchinson branch to which cattle don't have access. It was installed in the 90's. Previous to the new fence, a single willow had a fence around it to offer protection from grazing. With the addition of the larger exclosure, Willows now line the bank of the arroyo from one end to the other- stopping at the exclosure fence where cattle once again have access.

Cottonwood and willows need a chance to regenerate. Fencing to protect from livestock until they are large enough to withstand grazing appears to offer the only hope of restoring them. If not enacted soon, the old trees will finally die and regeneration will not be possible.

These trees are crucial habitat for birds, both nesting and in migration. And the roots stabilize the soil and

prevent flood damage not only to the stream channel but also to the roads.

Please see photos:

The green shrubs at the base of the existing trees are new cottonwoods. They are everywhere!

The explosion of willows inside the fence where cattle can't reach.

The willows stop at the fence that protects them; unable to thrive outside.