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Organization: Quemado SWCD

Title:

Comments: The following text was extracted from a scan of the original hard copy letter using Optical Character Recognition and pasted into this text box by Forest Service personnel. See attached scan (PDF) of original hard copy letter.

QUEMADO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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Chairman-Jimbo Williams

Vice Chairman- Buster Green

Sec./Treas.- Polly Pierson

Member- Burl Adams

Member- Herman Towner

Forest Planner

Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

2113 Osuna Rd. NE

Albuquerque, NM 87113

9-22-15

Dear Sir,

Thank you for taking the time to read our input. We would like it to be known that The Quemado Soil and Water Conservation District does not support wilderness of any kind on the Cibola National Forest.

The continued issue of drought that has escalated forests burning up leads us to feel that proposing more area with restricted access is moving in the wrong direction. Wilderness will only hamper efforts to prevent catastrophic wildfire in these areas. The cost of fighting these wildfires is not only monetary but is costing lives as well. The Cibola Forest needs to be more concerned with a healthy forest than a restricted forest.

Quemado SWCD supports multi use in the Cibola Nation Forest. With cattle grazing being a huge historic tradition in our district, wilderness will only make it more difficult and costly for this way of life to continue on forest allotments. Ranchers must have access to their cattle and all infrastructure to maintain those cattle. Limiting motorized vehicles makes the everyday ranch work much more costly and in some cases impossible. Agriculture is the major industry in Catron and Socorro County therefore this wilderness proposal will be very detrimental to everyone in this county.

How do you plan on managing all these acres of wilderness? How do you propose to keep people from driving on existing roads? What is it going to cost to keep it "untrammelled by man"? Most of the acres proposed have existing roads and infrastructure already in place.

Thank you