Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/29/2015 12:00:00 AM
First name: Amy
Last name: Louise
Organization:
Title:
Comments: December 21,2015

Elaine Kohrman Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands 2113 Osuna Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Re: Support for the Citizen's Conservation Proposal for the Cibola National Forest

I am writing to express my support for the proposed conservation areas put forth by the coalition of conservation, recreation, sportsmen and cultural resource protection organizations in their Citizen's Conservation Proposal, submitted September 25, 2015 to the Cibola NationaCForesf

The proposal identifies seven priority conservation areas that the Forest Service should recommend for wilderness in the Forest Plan and a separate Outdoor Education and Natural Area. These lands - in the San Mateo, Magdalena, Bear, and Datil Mountains, as well as the Greater Guadalupe Canyon in Sandoval County - are among the wildest lands left in New Mexico and they are ideal places to protect wilderness character. The proposed Sandia Mountains Outdoor Education and Natural Area would help forge stronger human connections to nature, encourage outdoor recreation and exploration, and share current thinking about the ecology and history of the   Sandias.

Wilderness is the highest level of protection for our public lands and is designed to protect lands and wildlife in their natural state. These areas merit this protection, and I urge the Forest Service to recognize their vital ecological, geologic, cultural, historic, and recreational   value.

In the face of ever-increasing threats of resource extraction and over- development, I urge you to safeguard these high value conservation lands now to protect our economy, natural heritage, opportunities for outdoor recreation, and livelihood for future generations. Please protect these priority lands in the Cibola National Forest by recommending them as Wilderness and designating the Sandia Mountains Outdoor Education and Natural Area in the Forest   Plan.

Sincerely,
Amy Louise