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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on draft "Land and Resource Management Plan"

The Middle Grande Economic Development Association is in the process of refining a High-Quality Strategic plan for submission to the USDA. This plan encompasses four New Mexico counties: Valencia, Socorro, Sierra, and Catron.

One of the target clusters that is central to this plan is Visitor Industries. I write from fear of possible negative consequences from your draft "Land and Resource Management Plan".

We feel it is important to not impede the recreational use of the National Forest, as such use has historically been seen as part of the economic development plans for all of our communities. Communities, either explicitly as part of a plan, or through simple common sense, expect our citizens and our tourists to enjoy the bounty that New Mexico offers through easy access to so much wild and rugged land.

We support the following alternatives, listed in order of most desirable to least desirable:

Alternative A as this seems to present best access for bicycles. Note that bicycle events have a long history in our area.

Alternative C, as it seems to not expand areas currently designated as wilderness.

Alternative D, providing bicycle usage is allowed.

We do not support the following alternatives, as we believe they will have a negative economic impact and will degrade outdoor recreation in our region.

Alternative B and E, as both seem to have a negative effect on several existing well-used trails.

We hope you can construct a reasonable compromise between being a good steward of our public lands and avoiding any adverse economic affect this new plan might inadvertently impose upon our four-county region.

Sincerely,

--Prescott

Prescott C. Grey

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