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Title:

Comments: Summary of points against Wilderness designation made on October 7, 2021 Meeting with Forest Supervisor Travis Moseley. We would like to lay out some of the key points that should disqualify any wilderness designation on proposed lands. There are numerous roads, water storages, above ground and buried pipelines, dirt tanks, public utilities, old oil well locations, mines, and county roads within the boundaries of the proposed designation. I am going to write a brief summary of these wilderness disqualifying attributes that each individual permit contains. On the Cuevo Allotment, owned by Alden Elkins there are numerous disqualifying characteristics found throughout the entire proposed acreage. He has roads that intertwine all across the allotment, which allow him to check and maintain improvements that have been put in on the proposed lands. Some of these roads have been used for nearly a hundred years. There are miles of buried and, above ground pipelines that run to numerous storages and water troughs throughout the acreage in question. There are dirt tanks found throughout the ranch, and all of these water improvements require upkeep that involves heavy wheeled machinery. Also, there is miles and miles of fences found within the proposed designation. All of which require upkeep where atv's are best suited to use to check and maintain these fences. Not to mention, there is also a county road that makes the north boundary of proposed wilderness designation, which is heavily used and during hunting seasons are traveled like small highways. There is also an old oil exploratory test well found on the proposed acreage. This well was drilled in the late 1970's by Yates Petroleum Corporation, and we feel that this should definitely disqualify any wilderness designation. This allotment is full of attributes that should disqualify it from being considered. The Dog Canyon Allotment, owned by Joe Aday, also has many disqualifying characteristics. There are miles of pipelines, buried and exposed, throughout. These pipelines provide water to numerous storage tanks and water troughs throughout the allotment. Not to mention, a number of dirt tanks. All of these water improvements require regular maintenance with big wheeled machinery. There are miles of established roads that are necessary for infrastructure maintenance and livestock/wildlife care. There is also an oil exploratory test well on this allotment. There is gravel road that was built to this well that is over a mile long. In addition to all this, there is many miles of fences that will require frequent maintenance and eventual replacement throughout this allotment. The county road also borders this allotment, and it is one of the most used county roads in the area. The next allotment I would like to address is the Mule Canyon Allotment, owned by the Cooper Family. This allotment, like the others, has many miles of pipeline within it and water wells that require repair regularly with large wheeled machinery. It has miles of fences that are maintained frequently. It contains storage tanks, troughs and dirt tanks. Again, all needing regular maintenance with large wheeled machinery. One man made feature that this allotment contains that the others do not, is the presence of an old mine. This mine has changed the surrounding landscape and the mine shaft remains to this day. This allotment also borders a county road. This county road is arguably the most highly trafficked during hunting season as it is a main access to public lands from US Hwy 82. There are three other smaller allotments within the proposed district that contain many of the same characteristics that have been mentioned formerly. These allotments are owned by Jim Ellett, Bonnie Smith, and Ken Cady. They contain water improvements, fences, roads, and wells. Items that would seem to disqualify them from being considered as wilderness. They will also need to use large wheeled equipment to maintain their improvements. Also, we would like to point out that along the county roads that were mentioned, there are many infrastructural improvements that must be maintained for the surrounding communities. Among these are fiber optic cable owned by Penasco Valley Telephone Cooperative that provides phone and internet to many residents. They must be maintained and upgraded on a regular basis. Of course, this would require very large machinery. There also is an electric line owned by Otero County Electric Cooperative that passes through some of these areas. These must be maintained and repaired, especially in times of inclement weather, and would definitely involve large machinery and terrain disruption. These utilities, along with the presence of exploratory oil wells, should definitely disqualify the proposed wilderness designation. All of these features that have been mentioned must be maintained. Not merely for the benefit of the allotment owners and livestock, but for the common good of the area residents, businesses, and hunters/sportsmen. There is so much evidence of

manmade interference that make this area not qualify for wilderness characteristic designation.