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First name: Jesse

Last name: Deubel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello Theresa, can you hear me this evening. No, thank you, I really want to thank the Lincoln National Forest and incredible staff for providing this opportunity for public engagement, my name is Jesse Deubel on the Executive Director of the New Mexico wildlife federation and I'll be fairly brief because the wildlife federation is going to provide extensive written comments so For the sake of not being redundant and allowing others to participate I'll just be I'll be quick here, but I want to emphasize. The wildlife migration corridor components that John Cornell was talking about earlier, those are very, very critical components in this national forest plan. I'm 41 years old and the last time this plan was reviewed, I was six years old, so the importance of this planning process cannot be understated. This plan is going to be around for a long time, and I really want to emphasize the way things have changed. From say 1986 until 2021 climate change is a real thing, we're seeing extended drought and the protection of our riparian areas and our waterways is critical and those waterways generally provide avenues for wildlife to migrate from one area to another, so one thing I really want to encourage the Forest Service to do is monitor the effects of livestock grazing on our federally managed public lands in particular in some of our riparian areas. I really appreciate the recommendation, for you know 139 miles of wild and scenic rivers designations, I think there could be more for sure. I think there's opportunity for additional wilderness designations throughout the Lincoln National Forest, I will say very generally speaking, that the New Mexico wildlife federation feels like alternatives C and D are most ideal most likely a hybrid of the two. We would like to see the maximum amount of wilderness designation provided without a negative or adverse effect on public access, public access to these federally managed public lands are critical for the hunters and anglers that comprise the New Mexico wildlife federation again thank you so much. To the entire staff at the Lincoln National Forest for providing these opportunities and working so hard on this plan we are greatly appreciative and look forward to continuing to engage throughout the process and providing our written technical comments Thank you so much. Thank you Theresa. I just want to chime back in thanks again for the opportunity. Jesse Deubel here executive director to Mexico wildlife federation, I just want to thank Brad King, who I don't know and haven't met for that phenomenal comment that he just made, because DEIS issues that he brought up are real. They're issues that I've dealt with years ago in Lincoln National Forest if you didn't draw an elk tag and I'm also an avid bow hunter if you didn't draw on elk tag there would be an opportunity for what we used to refer to as the APR he was an antler restriction tag that you could get. In what we commonly referred to as the fire sale or a quick over the counter opportunity if you're fast on the keyboard and so I've spent many Decembers chasing elk throughout the Lincoln National Forest with my bow and arrow and DEIS issues that Brad just mentioned they're definitely real they need to be addressed And obviously, as was made very clear throughout the earlier part portions of the presentation, the Lincoln National Forest and the US national forest in general is under resourced, and so I just want to let folks know do next wildlife federation is working as you know vigorously as we can with our federal delegation to try to get the proper resources allocated to the agencies that are managing these natural resources and so thank you very much brad for that comment, I really appreciate it, and just wanted to chime in and second everything you said that. The illegal use of all ATV vehicles is something that needs to be addressed we've got to focus on education and enforcement. Not trying to minimize or reduce access to our public lands, but when we talk about access, we really need to define what that means. Which is one of the reasons that the New Mexico wildlife federation continues to advocate for as much additional wilderness as possible. So thank you very much for the follow up opportunity to provide these comments Theresa. Yeah first, I would just like to say that I appreciate both brad and Leroy for these super intellectual respectful comments. And it absolutely is a balancing act to Brad's point it's a balancing act when you look at the miniscule percentage of public land acreage that is actually designated wilderness. I think it justifies additional wilderness designations for those people that do want to get back in the back country and have those very, very difficult haunts. I also want to acknowledge Leroy's point that it is there there's a limited amount of time that a person is going to be able to enjoy. Going deep into the wilderness I packed my first elk out of the Gila wilderness when I was 15 years old, I harvested that help with a with a bow and arrow That was my first harvest, and it was a very,

very difficult pack out, it was early September, and the temperatures were high, and I had to get that animal out and that was rough. Last year in August I packed out a caribou on a solo hunt 211 miles on a paragraph across the entire length of the Yukon Charlie rivers national preserve and Alaska. And so, what I'll mention is I recognize that and as 41 years old now I'm going to reach an age where I can no longer access these places, but even when I when I get to that point. I believe I'm going to continue to advocate for these places, so the next generation can have the kind of experience that I've had on our federally managed public lands, and you bring up great points Leroy about how difficult that pack out is and I encourage all public land hunters to be aware of their capabilities their abilities and the help that they have from the friends that you mentioned as to what it's going to take to get those animals out, but again to brad's point it's a balancing act and we have to have places where folks with limited physical abilities are able to enjoy our public resources and also maybe the younger generation that are more ambitious and physically able can enjoy very, very wild remote and rural places so great conversation. Thank you so much Leroy Thank you so much brad and thank you so much Teresa and Laura for allowing conversation to happen.