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Comments: I have previously filed comments on the Santa Fe National Forest Land Management draft plan. I have since read the objection letter from Comexico regarding the final Management Plan and specifically its inclusion of the Thompson Peak area as a recommended wilderness. See my comments below.

I disagree with the comment from Comexico, "much of the land in the Thompson Peak is totally unsuited to wilderness (page 12 Comexico objection letter 10/29/2021)

It is entirely appropriate for the USFS to designate Thompson Peak as wilderness. The area (designated as P85) meets all qualifications for wilderness. It is untrammeled, it has naturalness, it is primarily undeveloped, and it affords outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive and unconfined recreation. The SFNF land use plan clearly states the area has very high scenic integrity and is very high on the spectrum for recreation.

I also object to Comexico's implication that there was rush to complete the planning process in detriment to the Comexico mining claims. There was no rush. As a citizen involved in the planning process for five years, I think the SFNF planning process was extremely slow and deliberate. I think the planning for wilderness designations began in 2016. There were notices and public input meetings held throughout the state.

In fact, we have been working for forty years to designate Thompson Peak as wilderness. As a member of an environmental organization called Upper Pecos Wilderness Association formed in the early 1970's, we and other environmental groups in Taos and Las Vegas proposed numerous additions to the Pecos Wilderness including contiguous sections like Doctor Creek, Valle Grande and Willow Creek.

Thompson Peak was first proposed as wilderness area in 1979 by the US Forest Service. You find reference to it in the RARE II: Wilderness Recommendations USDA Forest Service Jan 1979. See Pecos Wilderness Contiguous Areas Recommended Wilderness Expansion. (Refer to Page 355 Unit 3038 NF 3062). Also see link below.

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5116928.pdf

Another federal review to designate Thompson as wilderness occurred with the BLM Wilderness Study Area (WSA) process. Several environmental groups proposed it for WSA along with about thirty other sections in New Mexico. See link below.

<https://www.blm.gov/basic/programs-national-conservation-lands-new-mexico-wilderness-study-areas>

In 2018, the Forest Service conducted the Inventoried Roadless Area survey. In April of 2019, Thompson Peak was officially included in this designation, along with 120,000 acres of other land around the Pecos Wilderness.

So, you can see that there were numerous efforts and plans to designate Thompson Peak as wilderness that preceded Comexico's application for an exploration permit. Had the company done due diligence, they would be aware that there were a pending actions that might impact their claim.

I urge you to keep Thompson Peak as a recommended wilderness area in the SFNF Land Management Plan. I request recognition as an interested party.

Jerry O'Shea