Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/30/2015 7:22:35 PM
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Title:
Comments: Suggested Revisions for Managing the Cibola National Forest

Dear Mr. Champe Green,

Thank you for your work to protect our public lands. I'm writing because I wish to see the Cibola National Forest managed as a refuge for wildlife and quiet recreation. As you know, New Mexico's wildlife are at great risk due to climate change, human development, historically poor management of forests and grasslands, disrupted fire cycles, and increasingly scarce water supplies. And so as you plan for the Cibola's future, it's important that you acknowledge these threats and manage accordingly.

To best protect animals and their habitats, please consider the following suggestions and incorporate them into your proposal:

1) Manage all ecosystems to protect habitat corridors by mapping these corridors and ensuring that obstacles to wildlife movement and migration are either removed or prevented;

2) Protect critical habitat of threatened and endangered species by removing destructive activities from within these areas and making them wildlife priority zones, managed to prevent disturbance and restore natural processes;

3) Create specially tailored plans for all threatened and endangered species to address the unique threats they each face;

4) Restore natural fire regimes by relying on prescribed fire, establishing a wildfire management map that allows for natural fire to run its course, removing vegetation only in areas where it's necessary for public safety, and then protecting and promoting old-growth forest habitats;

5) Protect wild places and watersheds by managing more areas as wilderness, prioritizing the decommissioning of unneeded roads, and preventing the addition of any new motorized roads and trails through the forest; and

6) Create buffers around riparian areas that eliminate grazing and roads within these buffers and protect our rivers, streams and springs from disturbance.

Thank you again for your work and for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

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