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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Inclusion of Sandia Foothills into wilderness

I have been riding the Sandia foothills on my mountain bike since 1994. I am now 66 years old and teaching my grandsons the joys of riding. In my experience, about 98% of both bikers and walkers are nice and respect each other. About 2% on either side, disrespect each other and the forest. I see bags of dog dropping and other trash, which I actually pick-up. I have bikers run me off the trail. I realize that it is easier to make it a wilderness as it takes less effort to keep the disrespectful people out.

If the foothills are lost to mountain biking, we have no local areas left. My son credits mountain biking for many good things he has learned. Self-reliance, hard work, respect of nature, and getting along with others. I ask that you consider keeping the foothills as is and out of wilderness. If you need additional money to fund enforcement or trails, charge an annual user or day fee for the privilege to ride or walk. I would suggest something similar to campground fees. I would be happy to participate here.

Thanks for all you do and I know your job is not easy.

Les Norman