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First name: Nico

Last name: Seamons

Organization: NMT Bike Club

Title: President

Comments: Dear Madam or Sir,

I'm writing to you on behalf of the New Mexico Tech Bike Club and the dozens of our members that regularly enjoy riding trails in the Magdalena Mountains. I would like to express my concern regarding the possible reclassification of the Magdalena and Bear Mountains as wilderness area.

The Magdalena Mountains are a favorite among our members due to their proximity to Socorro, beautiful scenery, challenging trails, and cooler temperature. While we unanimously support the concept of designated wilderness area, the prohibition of mechanized travel in said areas is not compatible with our preferred hobby. To reclassify the Magdalena and Bear Mountains as wilderness would be to deprive us of what we enjoy most.

One reason why many local riders are so passionate about retaining the Magdalena Mountains as a riding destination, is because of our continued investment in the trails through regular maintenance. Last year alone, the NMT Bike Club coordinated six works days to improve trails in the Magdalena Mountains. Such efforts typically include removing fallen trees from the trails, creating features to combat erosion (water bars, etc.), draining or diverting runoff water, pruning bushes and saplings, and picking up trash. Socorro riders are fantastic stewards of the trails we ride, and our efforts are appreciated by bikers and hikers alike.

Please consider our interests, and our positive impact on local trails in your assessment of lands suitable for wilderness designation.

Sincerely,

Nico Seamons

President

NMT Bike Club