

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/25/2015 4:43:49 AM

First name: John

Last name: Hand

Organization: Catron County Farm and Livestock Bureau

Title: President

Comments: Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands

RE: Cibola National Forest

To Whom it May Concern:

Catron County Farm and Livestock Bureau is opposed to anymore Wilderness designations. Proposed wilderness and other restrictive land use designations by their very nature will limit or restrict land use for agricultural as well as recreational activities. The Wilderness Act of 1964 states "A wilderness, in contrast with those areas where man and his own works dominate the landscape, is hereby recognized as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. An area of wilderness is further defined to mean in this Act an area of undeveloped Federal land retaining its primeval character and influence, without permanent improvements or human habitation, which is protected and managed so as to preserve its natural conditions and which (1) generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable; (2) has outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation; (3) has at least five thousand acres of land or is of sufficient size as to make practicable its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; and (4) may also contain ecological, geological, or other features of scientific, educational, scenic, or historical value." By designating Wilderness areas you are removing man from public lands. The areas of wilderness characteristic defined by the Cibola Forest are in fact areas that do NOT fall under the Wilderness Act guidelines.

Catron County Farm and Livestock Bureau is concerned that the Cibola Forest Revision plan will set forth action to remove grazing from the forest as well as removing recreational activities. We cannot even begin to calculate the economic loss that will occur in our County. Hunting is second only to Agriculture in the economic spectrum of Catron County and the continued desire by special interest groups to designated more wilderness areas will only further the demise of economic viability in our community.

Phase 2 of the Cibola Forest Revision Plan indicates 89,443 acres of potential wilderness designation in the Datil Mountains. This will effect all aspects of the Cibola Forest that falls in Catron County. Forest permittees as well as recreational groups including rock climbers and seasonal hunters will be affected. These areas do not fall under the Wilderness Act guidelines as the lands have been trammelled by man and these areas have been developed.

Catron County Farm and Livestock Bureau respectfully asks that the forest lands that are within Catron County be removed from any consideration of Wilderness designation.

Thank you for considering our comments.

John Hand

President, Catron County Farm and Livestock Bureau