

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2015 4:25:25 PM

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Title:

Comments: [Caution: Suspicious Link]Comment on Draft Plan- Sandia Perimeter Trail

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Champe and Sandia Landscape Team:

I attended the August 12 public meeting at Carnue Land Grant hall, and was encouraged by the number of mountain bikers present. This 15 year re-plan is a special opportunity to think about the recreational relationship the N.F. has to an ever-growing metro Albuquerque. This re-plan is the time for out-of-the-box thinking, for it only comes around every 15 years.

What comes to mind is the Tahoe Rim Trail in California/Nevada. This is a destination for people from all over the states to hike, run, mountain bike, or horseback ride the 165-mile loop trail around the lake. A 100-mile organized run is one of their famous events. They had a vision and did the necessary to make it happen. They had hurdles to overcome... it bridged two different states, passes through the Desolation Wilderness area, state parks, high-end private land and nearby homes. See the Association website: <https://www.tahoerimtrail.org/index.php/trip-planning/maps-maps-maps>

Why can't we do the same here with our Sandia? ... create a multi-agency, multi-recreational Sandia Perimeter Trail. The multi-agency Sandia Landscape Team already exists, and is comprised of just those folks. Make the Sandia a destination!

Like the mountain bikers at the meeting, I too would like to keep the current number of acres of wilderness the same... no increase. But, going one step further, I would like to see wilderness boundary lines redrawn to permit judicious planning and layout of the Sandia Perimeter Trail. The current wilderness boundaries don't make sense. In many locations they butt up against people's back yards! There should be a N.F. buffer zone separating wilderness and private property. This buffer zone could be the makings of the Sandia Perimeter Trail.

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