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First name: Anon

Last name: Patrick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cibola National Forest plan comments

To the USFS Forest Planner,

I would like to express my concern about the Bear and Magdalena Mountains Phase 2 Inventory Map and the areas marked for possible reclassification as wilderness. I support the concept of wilderness, but find it lacking in practice due to the prohibition of "mechanized" travel, which includes bicycles.

The Magdalena Mountainss are the closest mountains to Socorro, and therefore regularly used by local riders. They offer unique scenery and challenge, as well as a respite from the heat of the valley in the summer months.

Mountain biking is my preferred hobby and I am a regular user of the tails in the district. Working with the USFS and other local riders, we have also performed trail maintenance in the past, most recently on Copper Canyon Trail 10. In fact, a large portion of all trail maintenance in the Socorro area is handled by the local mountain bike community. To lose access to these trails would be detrimental to the cycling community as well as many other trail users.

Popular trails used by local cyclists that are in areas designated for wilderness consideration include:

- Mesa Trail (Tr. 13)
- Copper Canyon (Tr. 10)
- South Baldy (Tr. 11)
- North Baldy (Tr. 8)
- Hop Canyon (Tr. 25, 25A)
- Sawmill West and East Forks (Tr 19, 93)
- Six Mile Canyon (Tr. 14)

This list is not exhaustive. If these areas and trails were reclassified as wilderness this would be a big loss to the local cycling community. Please consider our interests in your assessment of lands suitable for wilderness.

Regards,

Patrick Brandt