

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/24/2015 5:47:24 AM

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Comments: Comments on the Phase 2 Inventory of Cibola National Forest Lands

I am writing to object to the inclusion of the D5_ADJ6 inventory area in the National Wilderness Preservation System. I am a supporter of most Wilderness designations and have a great appreciation for the adjacent Sandia Mountain Wilderness. However, the cited inventory area is significantly altered by human activity, including a web of recreational trails, disused two-track roadways, and old range fences. This parcel is a narrow strip of pinon juniper grassland situated between high-use City open space (Elena Gallegos) and private residential property (Sandia Heights). It is used by hikers but also by mountain bikers for recreation and for access between area public roads and the City open space property.

In summary, historical alteration of the landscape, vegetation and wildlife habitat make the area inappropriate for wilderness designation; such a designation would exclude many current uses of the area, and would impact access between public roadways and City open space.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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