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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Help designate Future Wilderness areas for New Mexico Forests

Oct 15, 2014

Cibola National Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman

Dear Kohrman,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Cibola National Forest wilderness inventory process.

Are we going to allow even the most pristine of our national forests to be developed for private profit? I certainly hope not!

Our public forest lands should be protected for the enjoyment and benefit of everybody, not for short-term profit or the benefit of any special interest group.

As you revise the plan for managing the Cibola National Forest, there is an important opportunity to preserve the wildest portions. These areas should be protected to maintain their natural characteristics, eliminating the possibility for human development and exploitation.

The Guadalupe roadless area in the Mount Taylor Ranger District is a perfect example of a place that is worthy of wilderness protection. This remote region includes old growth ponderosa pine and riparian habitats, used by elk, mule deer, and predator species such as mountain lion and black bear. Guadalupe Canyon has sweeping mesas and steep cliffs that offer unique opportunities for solitude and natural habitat undisturbed by substantive human development.

In the Magdalena Ranger District, the San Mateos, Bear and Magdalena mountains all offer rugged and unique lands and habitat that should be preserved and protected. Black bear and cougar call this area home, which also provides critical habitat for the Mexican spotted owl, elk and pronghorn.

Please preserve these special wild places in Cibola National Forest, for wild animals to live and thrive and for nature lovers to enjoy.

Sincerely,

Lois Wark

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