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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please designate Future Wilderness areas for New Mexico Forests

Oct 19, 2014

Cibola National Forest Supervisor Elaine Kohrman

Dear Kohrman,

I am writing to urge you to prioritize the protection of wilderness areas in the Cibola National Forest as you update the forest's management plan.

As a member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, I have participated in volunteer restoration projects in many areas of the Cibola National Forest, including the San Mateo Mountains. Based on my personal experience, the San Mateos, Bear, and Magdalena mountains all offer wild and unique lands and important wildlife habitat that should be preserved and protected. Wildlife such as black bear, cougar, pronghorn, and Mexican spotted owl can all be found in this remarkable area.

Similarly, areas like the Guadalupe roadless area in the Mount Taylor Ranger District offer perfect examples of places that are worthy of wilderness protection. This remote region includes old growth ponderosa pine, riparian habitats, and a diversity of wildlife. Bird species are particularly diverse in the area. Guadalupe Canyon has sweeping mesas and steep cliffs that offer unique opportunities for solitude and natural habitat undisturbed by substantive human development.

As the Cibola National Forest continues the process to revise its plan for managing the forest, we have a crucial opportunity to preserve the wildest portions of the Cibola. These areas should be protected to maintain their natural characteristics, reducing the possibility for human development and exploitation.

Please preserve these special wild places in the Cibola National Forest, for the wildlife and recreational users of today and for future generations.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Kristina Fisher
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