

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/6/2014 1:58:33 PM

First name: Glen

Last name: Banks

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect the Cibola for future generations

I hike in the Sandia's 4-5 days a week in both wilderness and not wilderness areas. The difference is profound. Bike trails have spread everywhere in the non-wilderness areas and the erosion is incredible. We need more wilderness to protect the animals and plants from human activity both for them and for us.

Thank you for soliciting comments on the Cibola's ongoing inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics. It is of the utmost importance both to carefully document wilderness characteristics and to make management decisions to protect those characteristics for future generations.

Wilderness provides countless benefits, both for the forest ecosystem and for human visitors. Large untouched spaces are incredibly important-they provide opportunities for fully functioning ecosystems, create carbon sinks, and allow people to experience nature on a primal and often spiritual level.

Many areas in the Cibola clearly meet the required criteria to be considered wilderness, including areas in the San Mateo, Magdalena, Bear, and Datil Mountains. Please inventory these areas, as well as any other large roadless areas as comprehensively as possible. Protect these areas through the forest planning process and recommend these areas to Congress as suitable for permanent wilderness designation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Glen Banks

Glen Banks
PO Box 333
Placitas, NM 87043