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Comments: Protect the Cibola for future generations

The open comment period on the Cibola's ongoing inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics is most appreciated.

I am a nomadic volunteer for various entities including FS, NPS, USFWS and was recently called to a FS heritage site in Arizona where the contracted volunteers had to leave suddenly re health issues. My home is Socorro, NM and I have regularly visited areas in the Manzanos and Magdalenas that I strongly support and know there are additional tracts near Mt. Taylor and pin the less explored Gallianas. I had hoped to hike and comment on specific areas of the Cibola now under consideration for their wilderness character. Since being called to Arizona, unfortunately I will have to make my comments more general.

Wilderness provides countless benefits now and into the future. Clean air and water, protected watersheds, natural light and soundscapes, and perhaps most importantly, large-scale, intact ecosystems that will continue to evolve naturally protecting biodiversity. In addition to protecting large areas for their own sake, they remain open to the needs of our species as well - for recreation from hunting to simple emersion in the natural landscape - rediscovering our own roots if you will. such areas are essential to humans.

I agree fully with the NM Wilderness Alliance that 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.

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