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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cibola NF Wilderness Inventory Sandia RD

Comments on the Sandia RD Wilderness Inventory:

D5_ADJ1 and D5_ADJ2: Drop from Wilderness Inventory

These areas are scenic, with great views of the north end of the Sandias, but not much potential for solitude as the areas are laced with social trails that the local community uses regularly for walking, jogging and mountain biking. This is an appropriate use for this kind of terrain.

D5_ADJ4: Keep on Wilderness Inventory, but modify.

This area has good potential for solitude and primitive recreation, and wildlife habitat, and should be part of the Sandia Wilderness. The area is less frequently visited than that part of the Wilderness area south of the ski area. It is scenic, with beautiful stands of trees. The largest inholding is managed by the Sandia Mountain Retreat Center, a use compatible with a wildland setting. The southern border of the area might need to be modified slightly, from the curve opposite 9 Mile Picnic Grounds, down to the Capulin Snow Play Area, so as not to bisect the east-west mountain bike trail that parallels the north side of Hwy 536.

D5_ADJ4: Keep on Wilderness Inventory

This area has good potential for solitude, primitive recreation, and wildlife habitat, and should be part of the Sandia Wilderness. It is a beautiful wooded area.

D5_ADJ6: Drop from Wilderness Inventory

This area, so close to urban Albuquerque, should be treated as a buffer between the Wilderness and surrounding neighborhoods. It doesn't lend itself to solitude. The area is used regularly by local dog walkers and mountain bikers, appropriate uses for the terrain, particularly given the adjacency to city Open Space.

D5_ADJ7: Keep on Wilderness Inventory

This area around the South Crest Trail trailhead should be managed as Wilderness, to preserve its scenic values and the potential for solitude beyond. The nearest houses are hidden from view by the rugged terrain. It's an important gateway to the Sandia Wilderness trail system; it is easier to enforce group size restrictions at the point where people leave their cars. Suggestion: develop a short side trail to link the Carolito Open Space loop with the lower end of the South Crest Trail. This expands recreational opportunities and might reduce some of the congestion at the South Crest trailhead parking lot.

D5_ADJ8: Keep in Wilderness Inventory

This small area is a logical extension of the Sandia Wilderness. It is unvisited due to lack of access from the adjacent freeway.

D5_ADJ9: Drop from Wilderness Inventory.

This area around the 3 Gun Spring trailhead serves as a backyard for the Monticello subdivision. It should be maintained as a buffer between the residential area and the Wilderness. The openness of the terrain, the proximity of houses, and the extensive use by locals don't promote the experience of solitude.

D5_ADJ10: Keep in Wilderness Inventory

This small area should be managed as an extension of the Sandia Wilderness. Because of the steepness of the terrain, the fragility of the surface, and the potential for erosion, mountain bikes should be kept off this slope. The Sandia Foothills Open Space serves as a buffer between this area and the nearest neighborhood. The area has scenic value: the view is great.

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