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First name: Teresa

Last name: Storch

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect wilderness now and for the future

Dear Director, Ms Kohrman,

Thank you for considering my comments and those of others on including the Cibola in the ongoing inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics.

In the over forty years I have been an adult resident of New Mexico, I have visited, enjoyed, and cherished the wilderness areas within the boundaries of the NM National Forests. While it goes without saying that wilderness provides countless benefits, especially to forest ecosystem, it is my personal relationship to wilderness that motivates me to write. To know that there are large untouched spaces set aside from development comforts me, in part because it puts a necessary limit on human inroads which have in other places so permanently changed the face of the planet. I have spent some of the best times of my life in the solitary places of wilderness. That so much wilderness exists within the boundaries of this state makes it an exceptional place to live.

From what I understand, 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. I ask that the Forest Service inventory these and all large roadless areas as comprehensively as possible. As fitting your duty as a public entity, I ask that you work to protect these areas through the forest planning process and I ask that you recommend these areas to Congress as suitable for permanent wilderness designation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Teresa Storch

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