

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/5/2014 11:03:42 PM  
First name: Shane  
Last name: Woolbright  
Organization:  
Title:  
Comments: Protect the Cibola for future generations

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.

I have been involved in efforts to protect wilderness since 1974 when efforts to create the Upper Buffalo Wilderness were underway in Arkansas. I'm among a few with an inholding investment - a cabin where hikers can rest, relax, spend the night. People from all 50 states and 24 countries have stayed at the cabin within the wilderness giving expression to their happiness with the wilderness experience as well as finding comfort in the jug kept at the open cabin.

Although a New Mexico resident for a bit more than one year, I've already experienced the Gila Wilderness. It was a joy, a joy not experienced on Forest Service lands that are logged or grazed in that area. While multi-use areas have a place in oversight of lands that we all own, wilderness has its place as well. As you well know, the number of acres of Forest Service lands that are wilderness is vastly overwhelmed by those multi-use acres. The lands of Southeast Arkansas are an example of multi-use lands that are well managed as multi-use. They were degraded lands converted to forest. But the Cibola, well, that's different, and you know that.

In my 30 years as a lobbyist in Washington, I was witness to the many influences that the Congress gets from those who wish to make use of federal lands for their own profits. Too often the concerns of those wanting only to save our heritage were left behind. As I age, I now want to contribute to efforts to save what little heritage we have left.

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.

Do something you can take pride in. Take action to protect the Cibola for those coming hundreds of years behind us.

Shane Woolbright  
2304 Calle Corta  
Santa Fe, NM 87507