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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cibola NF Wilderness Inventory Mountainair RD

Comments on the Mountainair Ranger District Wilderness Inventory:

Fourth of July Canyon: Designate as a "Special Area"

This very unusual native colony of maple trees in the desert southwest deserves special protection for its unique contribution to the bio-diversity of the Manzano Mountains and for its high scenic values and recreation opportunities. It is a very popular area for hikes and family picnics during the fall color season. The trails are heavily impacted and need regular monitoring to curtail short-cutting and associated erosion problems that may damage the trees.

D4_ADJ4: Keep in the inventory.

This area is contiguous with existing wilderness and the ecology is closely related. It is scenic, with views across the eastern plains, and provides opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation. The eastern margin may need some adjustment for buffer zones close to roads and inholdings.

D4_ADJ5: Keep in the inventory.

This area is contiguous with existing wilderness and the ecology is closely related. It extends the north-south wildlife corridor, which should be given high importance. In addition, it is scenic and provides opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation.

D4_5K1 and D4_5K2: Keep in inventory.

These two areas in a little visited part of New Mexico offer exception opportunities for solitude and primitive

recreation. The location, south and somewhat east of the Sandia and Manzano Wildernesses, make these areas important links in potential north-south wildlife corridor.

Submitted by

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