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Comments: Please Protect the Cibola for future generations

The urban area of Albuquerque and Santa Fe will only expand in the future, putting ever increasing pressure on wild lands in the vicinity. The Sandia Mts are an invaluable addition to life-style here in Albuquerque; within minutes you can be enfolded by natural surroundings and forget the pressures of modern life. I believe this is essential for human sanity; certainly for mine! I've hiked and climbed Mt. Taylor, the Sandia Mts., the Bear Mts, the Gallinas Mts, the Magdalena Mts, the San Mateo Mts., the Ladrones Mts., Petaca Pinta and their surrounding areas, dating from when I arrived here in 1973. I owned a 160 acre inholding N. or Magdalena for a decade and unfailingly found it a treasure of peace and solitude, I urge you to preserve these areas. These areas are the true resources of NM and should be preserved for current and 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.

Wilderness provides countless benefits, both for the forest ecosystem and for human visitors. Large untouched spaces are incredibly important-they provide opportunities for fully functioning ecosystems, create carbon sinks, and allow people to experience nature on a primal and often spiritual level.

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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