

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/6/2014 1:29:18 AM

First name: Edmund

Last name: McWilliams

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Protect the Cibola for future generations

I am grateful that you have sought comments on the ongoing inventory for lands in the Cibola with wilderness characteristics. As a Veteran I have sought and found solace in the wilderness and for my brothers and sisters who are now dealing with PTSD, the wilderness quality of the Cibola and other area with wilderness character are very important.

I hope you will carefully search out, identify and document so that you can make management decisions to protect those characteristics for future generations.

Wilderness provides undeniable benefits to this and future generations for humans and those creatures that live in the forest ecosystem. It is essential to preserve large, contiguous pristine area as these provide critical habitat, 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 Magdalena, Bear, San Mateo and Datil Mountains. Please inventory these areas, as well as any other large roadless areas as comprehensively as possible. I strongly urge to to protect these areas through the forest planning process and to recommend these areas to Congress as suitable for permanent wilderness designation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Edmund McWilliams
450 Jicarilla Road
White Oaks, NM 88301