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Title:

Comments: Protect the Cibola for future generations

Growing up in Albuquerque the Sandia Wilderness was always a sanctuary from the paved over life in the city. Without wilderness areas like this development continues to eat up our natural areas. This type of sanctuary is exceptionally good for people, but is far more important for wildlife. As we continue to develop and squeeze wildlife out of natural habitats areas where wildlife can continue to thrive become increasingly important. Striking a balance between using our forests and preserving plant and animal species is very important. This is something which we haven't done well in the past, but it is not too late to preserve suitable areas of land. Wilderness areas serve as reminder of what the environment was like before we impacted it. Watershed health, wildlife habitat and human sanctuary are only a few of the reasons that wilderness is important. The Cibola National Forest has many areas which could potentially be considered for wilderness protection such as the San Mateo Mountains, Datil Mountains etc. New wilderness designation is integral to healthy ecosystems. Large untouched areas are important as carbon sinks in a time when carbon dioxide is increasing in the atmosphere at high rates.

Thank you for considering my comments.

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