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Title:

Comments: Wilderness in the Cibola National Forest.

I understand that the Cibola National Forest is soliciting comments on the Cibola's ongoing inventory for lands with wilderness characteristics. In my opinion, wilderness is the most important value of a national forest. Lands designated as wilderness simultaneously provide optimal circumstances for water quality (in the form of watershed protection), wildlife habitat (by preventing fragmentation of lands via development), preservation of archeological sites (by limiting motorized access), and recreation (with a quiet, uncongested experience).

In my instance, wilderness saves society money. Were it not for the ability for me to access wilderness, I probably would have committed numerous crimes by now, and be costing society tens of thousands of dollars a year in the way of incarceration costs. Instead, I am a productive member of society, gainfully employed and generating tax revenue for government expenditures. What could be better?

Many areas in the Cibola meet the required criteria to be considered wilderness, including areas in the Sandia, San Mateo, Magdalena, Bear, and Datil Mountains. I am asking you to please inventory and 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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