

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/21/2014 8:49:43 PM

First name: Bryan

Last name: Wyberg

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please Inventory the Cibola's Wilderness Quality Lands For Eventual Wilderness Designation

I am writing to you with comments on the Resource Management Plan changes being drafted for the Cibola National Forest. In particular, thank you for soliciting comments on the Forest's ongoing inventory of lands with wilderness characteristics.

I am a supporter of the preservation of our federal lands that have maintained wilderness characteristics. As such, I am a strong supporter of the National Wilderness Preservation System. I believe that it is our responsibility as citizens of this nation today - to preserve intact the few remaining wilderness quality lands we enjoy, so that future generations of Americans will have the same opportunities that we have had to experience these special places.

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

It is of the utmost importance both to carefully document wilderness characteristics and to make management decisions to protect those characteristics for future generations.

Many areas in the Cibola clearly meet the required criteria to be considered for wilderness designation, including areas in the San Mateo, Magdalena, Bear, and Datil Mountains.

I ask that the Forest complete a wilderness inventory of these areas, as well as all other roadless areas larger than 5,000 acres. I believe it is your job as stewards of the Forest to complete the wilderness inventory as fairly and comprehensively as possible.

The Resource Management Plan must then provide full protection of the wilderness characteristics of all the lands this inventory identifies as having wilderness qualities. Specific protections should be included to protect these areas through future forest planning processes. These lands should be withheld from leasing for industrial (mining, oil and gas) development. Finally, please formally recommend these areas to Congress as identified and deserving of permanent wilderness designation.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Bryan Wyberg
12854 Raven Street NW
Coon Rapids, MN 55448