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Organization: Jeeps West 4x4 Club

Title:

Comments: Forest Revision Wilderness Comment

Hello, on behalf of the members of Jeeps West 4x4 Club in Gallup, NM, I am submitting this comment regarding the possible designation of wilderness areas in the Zuni Mtn area of the Mt Taylor RD. The comment is attached to this email.

Regards, Jim Todt

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Following is the complete text from the attached file--pasted into this text box by Forest Service personnel.

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Comment regarding possible wilderness areas in Mt Taylor RD, Zuni Mtn area

We do not feel that any area of the Zuni Mountain section of the Mt Taylor RD can qualify for wilderness designation for the following reasons:

Due to over a century of modern human uses, there is very little untouched wilderness left in the area:

- \*The area was heavily forested and no old growth forest remains in the area.

- \*The area has been managed for grazing rights which has eliminated the original wilderness characteristics of the forest. This includes creation of artificial water sources, fencing, and roads.

- \*The area contains many parcels of private land which breaks up the forest and fragments habitats.

Travel Management Plan:

- \*The previously approved TMP has assured continued public access to the forest. Creation of wilderness will go against this plan

- \*Road density in the Zuni Mountains fragments this area which makes creation of true wilderness areas impossible.

General Public Access:

- \*Hunting in the national forest is a very popular activity in the forest. The creation of wilderness will eliminate this activity. Also, hunting is used as a wildlife management tool.

- \*The forest is used by many people for firewood, wilderness areas would reduce access and areas where this could occur.

- \*Recreational motor vehicle use is a popular family activity which would be eliminated by creation of wilderness.