

Cibola National Forest Plan Revision
Draft Assessment Review/Public Meetings
May 12-May 21, 2014

Draft 052814

As part of the collaborative process, participants in the public meetings self-selected into small groups to discuss and offer suggestions/ideas for the 15 topical areas which were assessed by the Cibola National Forest, as directed by the 2012 Planning Rule. A brief description of each topic was provided in the handout *Executive Summary of Key Findings*. The 15 topic areas include: Vegetation, Soils, Carbon Stocks, and Air Quality; Water Resources and Watersheds; Federally recognized and species of conservation concern; Cultural and Heritage Resources; Areas of tribal importance; Social, Cultural and Economic Conditions; Timber and special Forest Products; Range and Grazing; Fish and Wildlife; Recreation; Scenery; Designated Areas; Infrastructure; Land Status and Ownership, Use, and Access; and, Minerals and Energy.

The facilitator asked participants to contribute ideas/comments on what information *should* be in the Assessment, as well as other feedback, including what data is missing. In addition, participants were encouraged to fill out individual comment forms which could be submitted at the meeting, mailed via USPS, or submitted online by June 15, 2014 to be most useful. At some meetings, the facilitator combined topic areas to allow for discussions about the relationship between the topics.

The following are suggestions/comments/concerns to date about the Draft Assessment from break-out groups, participant discussions (if the number of participants was not conducive to breaking into small groups), and individual comment forms. Note: items in brackets [] are submitted by the facilitator to add clarity.

- Regarding the Assessment Report, “Range & Grazing” section. My question is: Does the analysis consider the negative impacts to riparian environments due to cattle grazing? The Executive Summary does not indicate that this is factored in. In my experience, I have observed that the vast majority of cattle are concentrated in the streambeds (where the water is). The destruction is significant. Question: Does the analysis take into account that the cows are concentrated in the riparian areas along the streambeds, and not equally dispersed across the lease area (landscape)? (Submitted by USPS)

- These are random comments from the presentation & discussion:
 - Our presentation of “carbon stocks” as stable or improving is disconnected from context the fact that so much of the Cibola is in condition class 2-3. The high “carbon stocks” seems to me to be an indicator that the forests are dangerously overgrown and should not be portrayed as a positive finding.

 - The vegetation chapter 2 describes the current condition & reference conditions, but does not indicate whether detailed fire ecology history has been conducted.

 - Pg. 6 of Executive Summary-How is it possible that timber & forest products generate \$19.6 million in labor income* but recreation only generates \$14.24 million income? What models were used and how does this vary among the four districts?
(also p. 116 of Vol. II).

*Given the statement on p.133 that wood manufacturing is “drastically reduced” and “very little bidding competition” has occurred?

- The discussion of watersheds p.134-138 does not sufficiently emphasize the role of forested mountains to capture & store winter precipitation needed for groundwater recharge & surface water runoff. See the recent NM First Town Hall Report of water (available online) for reference material in the section on fire & water.
- The USGS, Water Science Center in NM, and RMRS are working together & with the Nature Conservancy to model the probability of wildfire and post-fire flooding & debris flow. The study is supposed to be done in June & could inform the Assessment. Contacts :
 - Lara Miller lwood@tnc.org
 - Anne Tillery artillery@usgs.gov
 - Also Matthew Thompson @ RMRS (but I don't have his contact info)
- 1) I am quite concerned that whatever is finally passed & implemented will be negated & negatively affected by State Game & Fish & other organizations. For example, the use of electronic callers on lands that typically have a 200 yd. range. 2) It is my understanding federal agencies have been charged/mandated to develop a plan due to climate change. Will the CNF be participating? If so, how will CNF's plan affect the final plan revision?

Fish & Wildlife Group

- Good to see prairie dog is on the SCC list. (p.182) They are targeted in animal killing contests. P.182. Ditto concern for the White Mountains ground squirrel.
- Assessing priorities of fish & wildlife regard to hunting & tourism (economic benefits)
- Due to the overdevelopment of the natural springs, how do we know if the development affected the species of concern?
- Emphasize wildlife in forest? There is a lot of birders that visit to see birds alive & other kinds of animals. This is needed for educational purposes, as well.

- Is the human population encroachment discussed in the Assessment? Also the impact of roads development, off road vehicles, hikers, mountain bikes & other motorized vehicles?
- **Consider a keystone species map and note sections which would include how are species' population is affecting other species? I.e., prairie dog' burrows & burrowing owl; wolves, coyotes, p-dogs...grasses.
- What is the effect of domestic dogs' presence/elimination on forest lands and the species it supports?

Water Resources & Watersheds Group

- ONRW
- Headwater wetlands-special designation/protection?
- Upland waterers to exclude grazing from riparian areas
- Return of proper function of springs for habitat and water quality for fish
- Watershed scale protection of resources-especially where villages depend on water-Placitas, Sandia Park, Magdalena
- Placitas is very concerned about EA delay in regards to wildfire risk and loss/impact of the watershed
- Wilderness treatments

Range & Grazing Group

- We defined AUMs--landscape determine AUMS
- Does plan look at:
 - Climate changes/drought cycles in AUMS
 - Is maintaining current standards adequate to address climate change and drought cycles?
 - Designating Open Space areas?
 - Does the amount of livestock water available take into consideration of how much water remaining for wildlife? If so: is there a set amount/ratio/formula for determining this?
 - The Executive Summary mentions "...not allowed to feed hay to their livestock...which

could be a potential source of new infestations if allowed...Is there an initiative to do this? If, so, where is it documented?

- The public has misconceptions about grazing.
- Stewardship that the ranchers provide because the care about the land and wildlife

Recreation Group

- Concern for educating youth about outdoor ethics & get youth interested in the out-of -doors
- Interest in getting used snow grooming equipment-campaign?
- Concern re: trails/facilities not accessible due to adjacent landowners. Ex. Cole Springs. Get easement across private land
- Volunteers as trail ambassadors. Program exists! Revamp. Have a training program like Master Gardeners.
- Horses-educate user groups re: who has right of way
- Education: leash laws
- Hiking-group size limits in wilderness?
- Need a system to permit groups greater than 10
- Take advantage of education opportunity w/ new tram building
- Trail re-routes
- Educating users, visitors, “tourists” on health safety in the outdoors

Land Status & Ownership, Use, and Access Group

(1) Private landholding inside Nat. Forest. What can they do for improvements? Land grant properties established. Travel mgmnt plan has helped reduce poaching, esp. hunting at night.

- What direction is FS going? More restrictive? Trying to get private landowners out?
- Private landowners may be willing to partner with FS to limit damage to the forest.
- Are there any moves in a big way to convert fed land to state/private (esp. as budgets decrease)?
- How control forests when demand increases? Permits? Restricted use, lottery? Advanced reservations? Then, how enforce?

- Old landowners tend to be cash poor, land rich, poorly educated, Hispanics vs. newcomers

(2) Hikers-access _____(?) as Forest rds not being maintained.

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 Santa Fe Public Library Southside Branch
Santa Fe, NM

[Note: Due to the small number of participants, there were no break-out groups at this meeting. The following are abbreviated highlights of the discussion, which was recorded by the facilitator.]

- Forest management and choices
 - The need to make choices and prioritize thinning and other treatments of the forest.
 - Goal should be to create a variety of habitats-even and uneven stands and patch structures.
 - Consistency across the region and across jurisdictions, including the Santa Fe and Carson NFs and other federal and private lands.
- Changes in landscape
 - Drought has impacted vegetation and driven wildlife into urban areas
 - Wildfires have left vast open areas with an opportunity for meadows and streams to return
 - Sharp increase in the population surrounding and using forest resources
 - Ranching seems to be changing hands, with wealthy out-of-state buyers taking over permits and bringing their own culture with them
 - Grazing permittees pressuring Forest Service for more grazing acreage
- Wildlife
 - Concern that over-hunting could upset the balance of nature and result in unintended consequences

- Protected habitat and corridors for the Mexican wolf if the species migrates north
- Wildland/Urban Interface
 - Need to focus on the “middle ground” between the wildland and urban area
- Energy Development
 - Require co-location of industry infrastructure wherever possible to minimize impacts to the resources
- Access to maintain utilities infrastructure
 - An inventory of access corridors to pipelines on Forest lands is badly needed
- Coordination of agencies and landowners
 - Work toward an integrated funding stream
 - Potential for stewardship agreements between the Forest Service and ranchers to insure sound grazing practices
- Adaptive management
 - Agency should focus on priority watersheds, given the lack of funding to address all needs

Tuesday, May 13, 2014 Torreon Community Center Torreon, NM

Fish and Wildlife Group

- Maintaining wildlife guzzlers
- Manage habitat

Recreation Group

- Health watersheds
- Multiple use
- Volunteer opportunities
- Need for improved trail maintenance-could be perceived as an economic benefit

Forest Products Group

- Development of forest product industry
- Interest in communities to take on forest restoration projects
- Opportunities to increase water

▪ Range, Water Resources, Vegetation Group

- Balance risks-having prescribed burns to open areas on the mountain
- Treating larger areas of timber to improve range condition
- Need EIS to make more timber available for local industries
- Identify desired conditions based upon historical record to work projects toward specific landscape models
- Help write a plan that support all subsequent EA or EIS to work on expediting projects
- Noxious weeds under forest-wide EA
- Need to bring prescribed fire tool back to re-open large grazing areas
- Need to encourage timber harvest for wood products for other than firewood. Right now, firewood is the local cash crop sold to Albuquerque, Texas, Oklahoma
- No more designated wilderness areas
- What is development and use for all spring water sources across the districts?

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 1-4 p.m.
Western NM Tribes/Public Meeting
Cibola County Administration Bldg., Grants, NM

[Note: While the focus of this meeting was on tribal interests and concerns, there were non-tribal participants who attended. Suggestions/comments regarding the Draft Assessment are taken from the facilitator's Discussion Highlights.]

- Relationship of plan revision to other plans, e.g. travel management, fire management and restoration projects

- Importance of implementation the plan

Energy Development

- Concern about the impact of energy development on tribal lands, resources and cultural properties.
- Request for a map to display all springs in the Mt. Taylor Ranger District area

Vegetation

- Support for prescribed burns and restoration efforts as long as access for plant collection on Mt. Taylor is protected
- Need for lists of culturally important plants

Water

- Concern that private water rights might be lost on Forest Service lands

Fish and Wildlife

- Concern about the potential migration of the Mexican gray wolf into tribal lands and the possible enlargement of U.S. Fish and Wildlife boundaries for the wolf.
- Concern about feral horses, swine and trespassing livestock

Land status and right of way

- Concern about access to culturally important sites, particularly with new private land owners

Logging

- Change in forest vegetation has resulted in dense stands of small diameter trees which currently have little economic value

Wednesday, May 14, 2014, 6-8 p.m.
Public Meeting
Cibola County Administration Bldg., Grants, NM

- I would like to see more info about logging and the benefits of logging projects. Not only to the forest but to the community.
- Keeping people on designated roads to minimize impacts to archaeological sites. Limit ATV & VTV use to reduce looting. Distribute maps & educate people to keep negative impacts to cultural & heritage areas minimal. Are there recycling programs? There should be!

Cultural Resources Group

- Vandalism increasing in Mt. Taylor District
 - Looting, human impacts, metal detecting due to Nat Geo [National Geographic) shows & Discovery channel shows
 - Decreasing across other forest(s) units
 - May be from increase in recreation use
 - Providing maps keeps people in designated areas & protects sites
- Wildlife
 - Work more w/ Game & Fish
 - Quality & quantity decreasing
 - Maybe professional outfitters causing too much impact
 - Lack of management through all entities
 - Need more balance-habitat vs. wildlife
- Minerals, Mining
 - No exploration or known nat. gas/oil reserves
 - Mining: not much interest in areas, but some applications in process (Roca Honda mine, La Jara)
 - Concerns: 1872 law makes it difficult to restrict or limit mining/claims
- Watershed
 - Cooperation w/ other water rights owners?

- USFS manages surface water, but only has 8% of water right-so please work w/ other water associations-which doesn't seem to be happening now
- Watershed restoration is a primary function of USFS
- Infrastructure
 - Lots of work on Taylor, but little work elsewhere
- Wild horses
 - Trespass livestock, abandoned llamas
 - USFS is developing a plan...
 - Feral horse management area?

Timber Group

- Timber work/restoration today provides benefits to other resources
- Provides economic output to communities
- Restoration isn't a quick fix and never stops, since conditions constantly changes—forest keeps growing
- Long term funding provides more confidence to industry to make investment
- Roads are an issue that affects the land differently in different ways and can cause short-term damage
- Maintenance of previous treatments is needed to keep the forest in balance/restored
- Effects of restoration are not communicated to those outside of the immediate “community”
- Most forest commercial users care for the land to sustain their resource & their business
- FS workforce is not adequate to meet needs of forest users in the woods
- Pro-active restoration can help reduce catastrophic fire effects
- Fire recovery treatments are temporary/inadequate/protracted where benefit is lost to time/elements.
- *Time is essential for effective salvage; bureaucracy limits efficacy
- A mosaic of treatments, i.e. different patch sizes, provides benefits to multiple resources
- Delays to restoration cost businesses big time

- Thinning in forests benefits views
- More informed public and we need better communication
- Local FS personnel have more connection to local land mgmt plan upper levels
- All aspects of the public need to be involved to determine the best future of the forest
- Pro-active treatments benefit local community & cost less than fire suppression
- Bureaucracy creates FS [to be] less involved in the field
- More collaboration w/ like-minded NGOs is needed
- Pendulum is shifting n forest uses
- Use more technology to educate the public

Recreation Group

- Vegetation mgt.
- Water sources
- Access given to motorized vehicles in wilderness
- Everyone is equal
- Open trails for mtn. bike trails
- Economy boost
- Hiking & biking trails
- WL mgt
- Motorized use-ATV/UTV
- Adaptable place
- FS needs business mgr-mgt for profit
- Ed. Program for youth- (education) conservation
- Grants is a poor county-tourism
 - Mtn. bike trails-economic development
 - How can we do that-Moab, Sedona
 - Gooseberry Trail-not sustainable. Erosion.
- Needs a balance of uses
- Prioritizing projects @ forest level
- Due to depressed economy-there is increased use
- Groups: can they adopt a trail to maintain?
- Don't restrict or limit local volunteers
- Side bar-need to conf. (?) for mining activities to help economic development to a depressed county
- Access should not be limited for recreational activities for both motorized and non-motorized use (responsible use). The use

- should be open to hikers, bikers, ATV/UTV, sight seers, etc. use. All use should be equal.
- Vegetation mgt needs to be conducted to improve Forest health, improve scenic so more people can visit the Forest. This _____ increase visits, which helps improve economic status of a poor count, increase opportunity for business.
 - Make this plan flexible and not restrictive

Tourist and Recreational use:

In order to more evenly distribute the concentration of use and to allow tourists to have access to some of the most scenic parts of New Mexico, the following Forest Roads (which are the roads listed on the recreational map dated 2003 revised 2006) should be developed into all-weather roads with an emphasis as scenic motor loops in and around the Mt Taylor area:

Elk Tank/ Horace Mesa Scenic Loop

FR 193 from the intersection of FR 239 to the intersection of State Rd 547

Riconada Canyon

Additional improvements need to be completed on FR 501 to FS 400. These improvements will allow traffic from the east to flow through some beautiful vistas on Mt. Taylor.

Lobo Canyon to San Mateo

Continue the improvement of FR 239. A portion of this road was widened and graveled a number of years ago. It has been the main artery for all use on the western section of the mountain.

Development and improvement for the end of this improved section should link it to FR 456 creating a beautiful loop to San Mateo.

La Mosca Scenic Loop

Off FR 239 to FR 453 to FR 451 to FR 239. Additionally, to FR 453 north to 456. If this section was paved we could boast the “highest

paved road in New Mexico.” Tourist would flock here in the summer, much like Mt. Even’s in Colorado. Motorcycles, autos and bicycles would come to experience this section of our state.

Construct FR 239, 194, 192 as main thoroughfares and all-weather roads.

Zuni Mountains

Construct FR 49, 50, 180, 178, 412, 447, 569, and 612 into all weather roads.

Continue to work with community members to develop the trails systems on both mountain ranges. Hiking, mountain biking, cross-country skiing and equestrian trails need to expand to meet the increased demand on the already maintained trails. The travel management plan addresses the vehicle traffic and off road use. Trail use will continue to grow as people begin to use all the resources on the ranges.

Continue to support the development of sporting events including Mt. Taylor Winter Quadrathlon, the Mt. Taylor 50 K, and Fajita Fest Mountain Bike events.

Harvesting of Wildlife:

Maintain the relationship with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, as well as with local interests concerning harvesting of wildlife and other animals. Continue to allow access to traditional hunting areas.

Water Resource Management:

There are on-going concerns about the lack of maintenance of the water resources on Forest Service lands. Stock tanks and springs require proper care to remain viable as a source of water for wildlife and domestic animals. Private land owners, who have land adjacent

to Forest Service lands, have seen an increase in usage of their water resource due to the lack of maintenance of Forest Service water sources. This concentrates wildlife on private lands. The Citizens encourage the Forest Service to work with local cattle leases and others on F.S. lands to help develop these water sources. Here is a list of springs and tanks, which require maintenance on a periodic basis:

Mt Taylor Water Sources:

Mt. Taylor Stock Tanks:

Boulder Tank

Colorado Tank

DeArmand Tank

Derrame Tank

Effron Tank

El Dado Tank

El Rito Tank

Escondido Tank

George Tank

Guadalupe Tank

Hoot Owl Tank

La Jara Tank

La Mosca Tank

Lagunita Tank

Lobo Tank

Micro Tank

Mule Tank

Pine Grove Tank

Ranger Tank

Rock Springs Tank

Salazar Tank

San Lucas Tank

San Mateo Mesa Tank

Sheep Coral Tank

Upper Lillies Tank

Mt Taylor Springs:

American Canyon Springs

Big Springs

Bosque Springs

Buckhorn Springs

Canonitas Springs

Cold Springs

DeArmand Springs

East Lobo Springs

El Rito Springs

Gobbler Springs

Gooseberry Springs

Guadalupe Springs

Lobo Springs

Lower Lillies Springs

Manuel Springs

Mirabal Springs

Ojo Padre Springs

Raton Springs

Revis Springs

Rock Springs

Salazar Springs

San Lucas Springs

San Mateo Springs

Seco Springs
Upper Lillies Springs
Willow Lake Springs
Zuni Mountains Water

Rock Springs
Serna Springs
Water Canyon Springs
Well Springs

Sources:

Stock Tanks:

Bonita Canyon Tanks
Billy Morgan Tank
Corral Tanks
Ojitas Cuates Draw Tank
Prairie Dog Tank
Slab Pole Tank
Thurlo Rock Dam (Tank)
Trail Canyon Tank
Tusas Mesa Tank
Ville Largo Tank
Windmill Tank

Zuni Mountain Springs:

Aragon Springs
Camp Springs I
Camp Springs II
Deiner Springs
Jose Spring
La Jara Springs
Little Trough Springs
Malpais Springs
Muerto Springs
Mule Springs
Ojitos Springs
Ojo Bonito Springs
Pink Rose Springs
Post Office Flats Springs

Forest Products:

Continue to work with the local forest product industry, which currently has forest restoration projects under contract and requires a guaranteed minimum of 2500 acres per year available for harvest for at least 30 years.

Also, the forest product industries needs the systematic maintenance of main arterial forest roads in order to efficiently and safely remove harvested material.

Firewood is necessary to heat many of our community members' homes. Develop a systemic method to utilize community members through firewood sales to help remove potential fire threats. Aggressively manage the fire risk of both mountain ranges. This should be a short-term goal. We have all seen the massive destruction and loss of forest products due to large uncontrolled range fires. Not to mention the erosion, loss of plant life, wildlife and habitat from these large uncontrolled fires.

Mineral Resource Development:

The Cibola National Forest must include continued access to mineral development, including uranium exploration, development and operations. The Cibola National Forest contains access to much of the yet untapped uranium reserves that hold great potential for local, regional, state, and national economic development. The Cibola National Forest, particularly in Cibola and McKinley Counties, anchors the eastern side of the Grants Uranium Belt, an area that historically has provided much of the nation's nuclear fuel in the past and has the potential to provide our country with significant additional fuel in the future.

Today, there are two mining proposals being pursued in the Cibola Forest, i.e., the Roca Honda mine project and the Laramide Resources mine project. EIS's are currently being prepared for these projects. Other

projects will, no doubt, also be pursued as the world economic market brightens. The Cibola Forest is also currently preparing a programmatic EIS for certain proposed future uranium exploration activities, an indication that future mining prospects are viable.

Projects of this type will bring much-needed economic stimulus to an otherwise economically depressed area. They represent the opportunity for resurgence of the industry and an important component of economic development in northwestern New Mexico, which if not nurtured will cause mining interests to abandon future projects. The U.S. Forest Service should, therefore, be mindful of the needs to assist in stimulating economic growth in the area, including the significant contribution that uranium-mining activities in the forest can provide.

Aggregate mining is necessary for proper road base material. Develop avenues for private businesses to mine and produce aggregate products for public sale and FS road maintenance. There are existing gravel pits such as the ones on Mt. Taylor (Buck Horn Springs pit, San Lucus pit, and Boy Scouts pit) and in the Zuni Mountains (Post Office Flats pit, McGaffey pit, Timber Lakes pit and Ice Caves pit. These are sources of rock necessary for proper road maintenance.

Conclusion:

As the communities continue to grow and future demands on the Forest Service lands change, the Citizens of Cibola County would expect the Forest Service management team to be fluid and adapt to these changes, while being active in our communities and good overseers of the land to insure a viable and productive public asset for all involved.

[Note: While the focus of the meeting was on tribal interests and concerns, members of the public also attended. Ideas/comments on the Draft Assessment were taken from the facilitator's Discussion Highlights.]

Access to cultural resources

- Concerns about accessing sacred sites and gathering culturally important vegetation on the Cibola National Forest

Data sharing

- Importance of keeping data about sacred sites or culturally significant locations of vegetation, springs or other resources

Connecting corridors

- Need to maintain corridors for both wildlife and cultural practitioners

Wildland/urban interface

- Concern about the treatment of wild animals who leave the forest in search of water and food.

Water resources

- Concern about water quality as urban contaminants affect waterways
- The drought has affected the quality and quantity of water resources

Wilderness areas

- Consideration on the part of the Forest Service to take some wilderness areas out of the current status as the designation are not always consistent with tribal interests

All lands approach

- Work with neighboring jurisdictions, including tribes, for maximum efficiency and effectiveness

Thursday, May 15, 2014 Mountainair Senior Center Mountainair, NM

Fish and Wildlife Group

- Seasonal road closure access [to?] Forest Service
- Water access for habitat
- Downed tree removal to improve habitat
- Access to closed gates
- Permits to be issued?
- Map to indicate guzzlers & water tanks

Recreation Group

- Take care of the trails-use outside sources
- Can some trails be closed?
- Do not build more facilities; take care of what is already in place; downsize where necessary
- Good volunteers-outreach program
- Access to west side
- Upkeep and w/ road access
- Public safety issues
- Scenery: sudden changes in landscape are painful
- Promote National Forest (tourism) responsibly
- Wilderness-inventory important on [the] Manzanos

Range, Timber and Special Forest Products Group

- The NEPA process-speed it up
- Timber sales before & after fires
- Use NRCS Equip Project for funding
- Improve & maintain sustainability [for] range & timber
- Improve & maintain water
- Prescribed fire
- Monitoring-standardize by forest & region
- Monitoring for wildlife

Water Resources & Watersheds Group

- Concerns about diversion on Ox Creek to sheet flow disruption
- Protection of watershed that supplies H₂O to village of Corona
- 30 developed H₂O's in Gallinas for wildlife
- Juniper encroachment around spring and water sources

Monday, May 19, 2014 Socorro County Annex Bldg. Socorro, NM

[Note: The following suggestions/comments on the Draft Assessment are taken from the facilitator's notes.]

- Three main issues to be addressed in the Assessment: impact of grazing; increased drought; and, fire management
- Suitability of Forest land for military exercises
- Use of fire as a tool (“right fire, right time, right place”)
- The Assessment should have a good focus on recreation. There's big demands on recreational uses. Use good science and look at the economics of it.
- The Assessment should look at recreational opportunities. Look at stressors and evaluate not just for the current use, but also the need for protected areas like the sky islands where isolated species occur.
 - Narrowing kinds of niche
- Grazing water, vegetation are all inter-related
- The desired conditions ensure that vegetation is the most resilient.
- Designated areas will have an overlap between interests, historic interests, and conservation
- Vegetation and other resources address the need to monitor

Tuesday, May 20, 2014 Magdalena Ranger District Conference Room
Magdalena, NM

[Note: The following suggestions/comments and concerns on the Draft Assessment are taken from the facilitator's notes of the group discussion.]

- [Range and Grazing] You need to write into the plan that we have an overabundance of elk. With the drought, they're cutting the allotment numbers. It needs to be addressed in the plan.
- [Range and Grazing] Competition between wildlife and cattle for limited vegetation and water resources
- [Fish and Wildlife] With elk herds being so high, they're pushing out the cattle. They've pushed the deer completely out. We're going to be run off as cattle producers. There will be a die-off because you're letting the population get so big.
- [Water and Watersheds] From a rancher's point of view, ranchers are the ones who are providing the water or there wouldn't be any game involved.
- [Designated areas] There's a relationship between access and designated areas
- [Vegetation] If trees were eliminated, we'd see some of those effects where the springs would come back.
- [Vegetation] Removal of trees will help fires, wildlife, water resources. With the dry weather, there's not enough moisture to go around.
- [Vegetation] All the overgrowth in spring areas, you can take away all that stuff and it wouldn't affect a plant of anything special.
- [Designated areas] Concern about additional wilderness areas and the effect on private adjacent landowners
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Wednesday, May 21, 2015	Los Vecinos Community Center	Tijeras, NM
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Recreation, Land Use Group (“North Group”)

- Access to trails has been more restricted in recent years, especially in the south Sandia Mtns. Access is better in the Manzanos.

- Concern regarding coordination with adjacent agencies, harmonization with other land managers, particularly with plans for recreation
- Consider need for/demand for more developed campgrounds-data gap identified for this issue
- Need to conduct archeological inventory in areas where sites are likely to occur, but not likely to be inventoried, for example, wilderness
- Concern about pressures/demands for recreational use between the different ranger districts

“South Group”

- Use of adaptive management to minimize stand clearing catastrophic megafires
- Limit out-of-state input in planning processes (controversial)