

Cibola County Commission

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Christine Lowery, Commissioner
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Cibola County
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Kate Fletcher
County Manager

April 1st, 2019

Steve Hattenbach
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands
2113 Osuna Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

RE: Grants Ridge Trail System

Dear Mr. Hattenbach,

On behalf of Cibola County, I am writing to ask the US Forest Service, specifically the Cibola National Forest Ranger District, to include the Grants Ridge Trail System in your selected priorities. The Grants Ridge Trail Committee has identified a potential trail system north of Grants located 5 miles up highway 547. The current plan is to utilize the illegal shooting range as a trailhead and parking area and provide access to multiuse stacked loop trails.

This trail system will enable residents and visitors' access to local trails and recreational areas. Increased access to safe trails and recreational areas will help promote a healthier life-style for our citizens. This trail, being so close to the City of Grants and other Cibola County residents, will provide a greater opportunity for all our citizens to be more physically active, improve their health, and lower healthcare costs.

Having safe trails and corridors will attract outdoor enthusiasts from all over NM, as well as neighboring states. This has the potential of providing increased economic benefits through increased hotel, restaurant, and retail spending. Increased economic value has been experienced in similar communities who promote outdoor recreation.

Cibola County along with other local governments and numerous community partners are in support of this project. Cibola County on behalf of The Grants Ridge Trail Committee, is asking that the Cibola National Forest Service/Mt Taylor Ranger District place this project among your priorities.

Sincerely,

Kate Fletcher
Cibola County Manager