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LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY ALERT

The Wilderness Man (Likely) cometh!

by TOM COOPER, CHAIRMAN, *People for Preserving our Western Heritage*

Accompanying this article is a listing prepared from a New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA) schedule titled "New Mexico's Wilderness Potential." The listing includes 2,917,366 acres in 164 areas located throughout New Mexico, and many of the 33 counties! National Conservation Areas (NCAs) can be proposed in addition to Wilderness Areas, as is the case in Doña Ana County.

"Wilderness Areas" are Federal lands areas designated by act of Congress and are subject to management under the Wilderness Act of 1964. The Wilderness Act requires protection from the intrusions of man to keep the land in its "wild" state.

When the Las Cruces City Council approved a resolution in February 2006 supporting NMWA's "Citizen's Proposal", it was noted that NMWA's Doña Ana County "wilderness inventory" is much larger than its current proposal. The So. New Mexico Director for NMWA stated, "This is the first round. We will be back later for another round." A second round would assumedly be prompted by a win in the first round. We have worked hard for nearly two years to prevent that from happening.

The Doña Ana County areas in the listing total 504,146 acres, plus some part of the Jornada del Muerto and the two Nutt Grasslands areas. The current wilderness proposal is for 286,000 acres, plus 100,000 acres in NCAs in areas not included in the listing.

A group of affected ranchers and friends organized People for Preserving our Western Heritage in October, 2006 to oppose the wilderness proposals in Doña Ana County. We believe wilderness designations with restricted access and excessive time lost in securing BLM permits to conduct normal ranching operations and maintenance would put us out of business. A former high level officer of NMWA acknowledged that "Wilderness is their first step to eliminate the livestock and the people from the land, one ranch at a time!" Environmental organizations routinely oppose permit applications and agency management decisions, imposing further delays and costs on our industry.

Our Coalition includes an impressive listing of over 700 mostly Doña Ana County businesses and organizations and 14 range management professionals who support our legislation, the Doña Ana County Planned Growth, Open Space and Rangeland Preservation Act of 2008 (HR6300). The Act was introduced in the House by Congressman Steve Pearce on June 18, 2008. We thank Congressman Pearce, and we applaud him for his consistently strong stand to protect the property rights and heritage of all Americans. Congressman Pearce is a strong ally for our industry and for conservative values in general.

We all need to spread the word and be prepared — your turn at battling wilderness and NCA designations could be around the corner. There may be a wave of wilderness and/or NCA proposals soon, and with November election results not expected to please us, we will be in for more battles.

More statewide Coalition members would help our cause in Doña Ana County, and hopefully help stem the flow of proposals and soften Congressional support for Federal Wilderness designations elsewhere in the State. We believe the battle in Doña Ana County has given pause to proposals elsewhere. Early industry opposition could forestall proposals in other counties.

Our organization does not collect dues, and has not solicited contributions from other than Doña Ana County ranchers. We ask those wishing to add your name to our Coalition to simply list your farm, ranch, or company name(s) for all operating entities, contact person(s), phone numbers, mail addresses, and email addresses, and email to us at ppowh@gmail.com or fax to us at 575/647-1264. Please join our Coalition! We need to be united in this battle, and we will appreciate your support. We hope that our experience and our website will benefit many of you as we go forward.

Visit our web site at www.peoplefor-westernheritage.com to view HR6300, a copy of the Wilderness Act of 1964, our Coalition listing, extensive information regarding "wilderness" issues, and more.

Wilderness Potential

We all need to spread the word and be prepared — your turn at battling wilderness and NCA designations could be around the corner. Be aware that there may be a wave of wilderness and/or NCA proposals soon for any or all of the following locations throughout the state.

Location	Acreage	Location	Acreage	Location	Acreage	Location	Acreage
Aden Lava Flow	27,750	Cowboy Rim	10,995	Little Black Peak	16,191	Providence Cone South	6,797
Ah-Shi-Sie-Pah	15,195	Crest Garden	8,824	Little Hatchet Mntns	4,046	Pup Canyon	42,296
Alamo Hueco Mountains	15,901	Crooked Canyon	6,815	Loma de las Cañas	19,754	Pyramid Mountains	35,564
Alamo Mountain	5,258	Culp Canyon	11,330	Long Canyon	2,357	Rawhide Canyon	11,822
Alexander Mountain	5,391	Culp Canyon South	9,007	Lordsburg Playa	23,985	Red Flat Wash	12,020
Animas Mountains North	14,019	Devils Backbone	19,883	Luna Mesa	6,606	Red Hill	34,624
Antelope	20,530	Doyle Peak	5,987	Magdalena Mountains	15,108	Redhouse Mountain	10,449
Antelope Pass	23,559	Dugout Canyon	12,841	Malpais Ridge	7,189	Rincon del Cuervo	42,995
Antelope South	5,644	Dunnaway Canyon	5,890	Manzano Wtl. Addition	806	Rio Chama	12,768
Apache Box	6,172	Eagle Nest	23,738	Mariano Mesa	7,644	Rio Grande Gorge	36,240
Apache Hills	18,912	East Potrillo Mtns	20,021	Massacre Peak	9,408	Rio San Antonio	17,050
Ash Creek	10,184	El Malpais Adjacents	2,525	McVeigh Hills	4,291	Robledo Mountains	59,045
Badger	12,635	Empedrado	14,634	Mesa Crotalo	10,360	Rough Draw	34,484
Big Hatchet Mountains	72,429	Flat Top	6,894	Mesa Gallina	28,537	Sabinoso	16,252
Big Yucca	5,332	Florida Mountains	24,390	Mexican Canyon	8,460	Sacramento Escarp	5,092
Big Yucca North	11,554	Gap Hill	6,659	Monte Seco	29,760	San Luis	7,709
Blue Creek-Red Rock Mesa	34,044	Gila Lower Box	21,254	Mount Riley	8,540	San Luis Lake	9,096
Boardwell Canyon	13,981	Gila Middle Box	21,835	Night Hawk Ridge	11,510	Santa Rita	10,000
Brokeoff Mountains	57,723	Goodsight Mountains	20,260	Nutt Grasslands N	4,741	Shiloh Draw	4,507
Brushy Mountain	16,391	Goodsight Peak	17,227	Nutt Grasslands S	9,541	Shiloh Hills	22,623
Cabezon	9,088	Gore Canyon	11,906	Nutt Mountain	13,312	Sierra de la Cruz	9,261
Cambray	7,745	Granite Peak	33,240	Organ Foothills	6,319	Sierra de las Uvas	94,322
Carrizozo Lava Flow	27,359	Gray Peak	26,859	Organ Mountains	19,961	Sierra Ladrones	61,303
Cebolla Wilderness Addition	9,586	Guadalupe Canyon E	1,946	Otero	5,453	Sierra Rica	36,240
Cedar Mesa	6,258	Guadalupe Canyon W	2,082	Otero Mesa	12,653	Sleeping Lady Hills	10,413
Cedar Mountains	114,312	Guadalupe Escarpment	11,576	Otero Mesa E	4,544	Southern Caballo Mtns	21,023
Cemitos de Jaspe	6,895	Gyp Hills	7,900	Otero Mesa S	5,650	Split Lip Flats	14,357
Cerro Cuarte	8,166	Gyp Hills SW	8,576	Padilla Gonzales	10,326	Stallion	47,571
Cerro de la Olla	12,265	Hachita Peak	18,103	Palomas Hills	5,684	Steeple Rock	15,161
Cerro Pomo	55,366	Hachita Valley	7,530	Pelondillo Mountains	3,881	Techado Mesa	10,646
Chain of Craters	21,001	Header Rock	3,185	Penasco Canyon	6,023	Tejana Mesa	7,440
Chamisa-Banco Breaks	17,979	Horse Mountain	8,868	Penasco Peak	285	Timber Mountain	7,889
Chupadera Wtl. Addition	7,179	Howell's Ridge	6,430	Petaca Pinta	12,297	Turtle Mountain	5,471
Cibola Canyon	5,058	Huapache Canyon	2,654	Playas Valley	10,602	U Bar Ridge South	11,542
Collins Hills	13,699	Ignacio Chavez	36,914	Point of Rocks	10,516	Ute Mountain	12,744
Continental Divide	108,238	Jomada del Muerto	35,719	Point of Rocks Canyon	4,174	Veranito	7,226
Cookes Peak	27,099	La Leña	10,107	Polvadera Mountain	10,260	Volcano Hill	22,937
Cornucopia Draw	12,979	La Montonera	10,749	Prairie Dog	12,751	Wahoo Mountain	9,274
Cornucopia Hills	7,018	La Paloma Canyon	20,718	Presilla	16,004	West Malpais Wtl. Add.	2,980
Cornudas Mountain	14,615	Last Chance Canyon	1,912	Presilla SE	9,787	West Potrillo Mntns	161,493
Corral Canyon	5,227	Lewis Canyon	68,310	Pronghorn	4,678	Wind Mountain	6,617

TOTAL ACREAGE: 1,818,954

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