

Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress
New Mexico – District 2
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Las Cruces, New Mexico
88001

Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senator, State of NM
Loretto Town Centre
505 S. Main, St. 148
Las Cruces, NM 88001

Pete Domenici
U.S. Senator, State of NM
201 3rd Street, NW
St. 710
Albuquerque, NM 87102

RE: Dona Ana Wilderness, **Attention Grant A. Olson, Virginia White, Clinton Chandler**

Gentlemen:

I and fellow Trustee, Lloyd Burns have continued to learn more about the proposal and the effort to create wilderness on 300,000 acres of Dona Ana County public lands. As Village of Hatch trustee's, we have now been on both sides of resolutions supporting and then rescinding support for this effort. We have real concerns about certain specific issues of how this process has been pushed through our system, but this is not the issue that we communicate today. The issue of importance today is the emerging awareness of who is behind this effort.

In a blog that we are gaining awareness of, www.nmwilderness.blogspot.com, the former Executive Director of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance (NMWA), Jim Scarantino, is writing a continuing account of the progress of what he is calling "The Dona Ana Mess". We don't know Mr. Scarantino. We don't know his background. We don't know what else he is doing besides this blog, but we can only assume that what he is writing about has merit in that he once ran NMWA. His assertion is that the real power behind NMWA is the founding father of Earth First!, David Foreman. We don't have to tell you who Earth First! is and what they have stood for and advocated over time. These people have advocated a way of life that is not founded on a standard of laws created by the hands of man. They have demonstrated their true colors complete with recent year convictions and sentencing of certain lieutenants within their membership. They are not people who believe in our standards and our allegiances to our creator and our fellow human beings. If this stands the test, and we know that NMWA is backing this because it has been in the paper, they have paid staff on the ground, and they were present as recently as last week's Congressman Pearce's meeting. We suggest we heighten our scrutiny of this process. If we have lands qualified for wilderness in Dona Ana County, we should proceed with this on the basis of our local residents, local leadership, the BLM, and, you, our elected congressional delegation. If we allow these people, people fundamentally against our way of life, to coerce, interfere with and direct information, and generally dictate how our lands should be administered and classified then a greater wrong is being created in our midst. We cannot allow our country to be reinvented by radical elitists who relegate human endeavors to a subservient role in our existence. There is principle here that needs to be defended, and we ask you to be diligent in your assessment of any actions taken.

Sincerely,

Dave Sment

Village of Hatch Trustee

Lloyd Burns

Village of Hatch Trustee