



Doña Ana County Sheriff's Department

Main Station - 845 N. Motel Blvd.
Las Cruces, NM 88007

Todd Garrison, Sheriff

Edward Lerma, Undersheriff

August 2, 2011

Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

As the duly elected Sheriff of Dona Ana County, New Mexico, I write in opposition to S. 1024 which would designate over 240,000 acres as Wilderness in southern New Mexico.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits the use of motorized vehicles, mechanical devices and structures in all Wilderness areas. Such prohibitions would stymie my department's efforts to protect the public safety. Furthermore, given the recent problems of drug and human trafficking from Mexico, it would seem the height of folly to place such restrictions on law enforcement in this border area.

Congress has at its disposal other land designations which would protect the areas from development without placing such encumbrances on law enforcement. I strongly urge you to utilize one or more of these other designations and to reject the provisions of S. 1024.

Sincerely,



Todd Garrison, Sheriff

Main Station Phone: (575) 525-1911 • Toll Free: (800) 332-2121 • Fax: 575-525-8853
Anthony Substation • 865 Anthony Dr., Anthony, NM 88021 • (575) 882-4596 • Toll Free (800) 521-6289
Hatch Substation • 210-4 W. Hall Suite D Hatch, NM 87937 • (575) 525-8893
Chaparral Substation • 121 W. Lisa Chaparral, NM 88081 • (575) 824-0449

CHARACTER FIRST!