

RAYMOND COBOS
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September 1, 2011

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

Dear Senator Wyden:

S. 1024 would create 242,000 acres of Wilderness in southern New Mexico, of which approximately 11,000 are in Luna County, New Mexico.

Furthermore, there are three additional Wilderness Study Areas totaling 56,855 acres in Luna County, all of which have been targeted for inclusion as Wilderness in the next round of Wilderness legislation.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 prohibits the use of motorized vehicles or mechanical equipment in such areas. These provisions hamstring effective law enforcement and will prevent my officers from providing for the public safety.

As a result, I stand in opposition to S. 1024 and respectfully request this legislation be set aside.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raymond Cobos".

Raymond Cobos
Sheriff, Luna County