



Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center
Office of Biosecurity
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
New Mexico State University
MSC 3AG, Box 30003, MSC 3AG
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8003

August 17, 2011

To: The Honorable Ron Wyden

I respectfully request that congress not designate the proposed areas of Dona Ana County as Wilderness Area. Drug trafficking and illegal activity always increases in areas along the border where civilian or law enforcement activity decreases.

This area is largely badlands with no tourist value and there will not be any benefits derived from its designation and the risks to the county, New Mexico and the US will increase significantly.

No one argues the value of preserving the peaks of the mountains; however hundreds of thousands of acres is flat barren land with no extra value to be derived and much to be lost as a drug trafficking corridor and illegal access corridor.

We are concerned about the spread of diseases, both animal and human, by illegal traffickers coming across the border without any inspection or permits. We have concerns that law enforcement cannot have unfettered access in wilderness areas. Law enforcement officers are not able to use motorized vehicles in the wilderness areas without obtaining a permit. Routine patrol by law enforcement, federal, state and county officers cannot be accomplished under prohibited uses in the Wilderness Act. Our water supplies and food production can be contaminated by flood waters from arroyos carrying human waste of illegals hiding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Billy Dictson'.

Billy Dictson
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