

LAS PLACITAS ASSOCIATION

Nancy Rose
Cibola National Forest
2113 Osuna Road, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Dear Ms Rose,

The Las Placitas Association (LPA) is a non-profit Community Association with over 350 dues paying members. Among our objectives is the active advocacy for quality of life issues that relate to our local and surrounding Environment.

We have reviewed the recently published Environmental Assessment for Travel Management of the Sandia Ranger District document, dated January 2008.

First, we compliment the thoroughness of the information and analysis that has brought forward this study and recommendations for the Sandia Mountains, North of I-40 where we have the greatest concern. This document carefully identifies many of the issues that are so critical to us for the La Madera area.

We enthusiastically endorse and support Alternative 1 and its Proposed Action as identified in the document. Simultaneously we vigorously oppose Alternative 3 and the map Alt. 2-North.

The La Madera area is an extraordinary wildlife habitat, and healthy and diverse ecosystem that fortunately remains largely undisturbed at this time. Its delicate balance and captivating natural ambience is a local resource that needs to be preserved for the benefit of everyone both today and into the future.

It simply makes no sense to allow ORV's access to this critically sensitive area because of the extraordinary damage that will be so easily and quickly inflicted. LPA is actively involved in watershed restoration in the Placitas area, currently serving as an agent of the state in improving water quality in area watersheds. Since 2005, LPA has been funded by the New Mexico Environment Department to enact measures to reduce surface erosion and sedimentation/siltation in area streams. It is widely known that ORV use increases surface erosion via the establishment and use of new trails. Introduction of ORV use into a sensitive riparian area such as Gonzales Canyon would be a tremendous setback to our mission. Additionally, our wonderful State of New Mexico has available extensive other Forest and other natural areas where ORV owners can experience their off-road enjoyment.



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The momentary pleasure of a rider on an ORV does not even begin to compare to the feeling of grace and natural beauty to countless others in perpetuity. Beyond the importance of this is the wildlife habitat and delicate watershed areas that are so critical for the perpetuation of the high quality of life of our local environment and the perpetuity of native wildlife and flora.

We highly regard and respect the Stewardship of our Public Lands that is embraced by our local Forest Service personnel and the understanding that conflicting interests must be balanced on Federal Properties.

We believe that the document presented and the recommended Alternative 1 is the carefully crafted solution to reach this delicate balance.

Sincerely,
Las Placitas Association

Reid Bandeen
President



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