

What is Wilderness?

1. Some comments addressed the definition of wilderness, without expressing opinion:

1. Protected public land – rivers, forests, trails
2. Traditional use
3. Wild
4. Pristine
5. Areas that have not been impacted by human activities.
6. Wilderness land managed to remain in its natural state
7. An experience away from humans
 - a. Protected lands
 - b. Backpacking
 - c. Solitude
 - d. Place you can die
8. It may have special characteristics that we are managing for. Not developed; a contiguous chain of land.
9. Some activities are permitted.
10. Wilderness means come, an area where natural cycles have shaped the landscape. Not area where man has drastically altered the ecosystem.
- 11.

2. Many attendees expressed opposition to wilderness in general, or to the potential increase of wilderness areas within the Carson:

Some comments relate to traditional uses and economic benefit:

1. I don't really know what it is, but I don't really think it works as far as watersheds and grazing are concerned. We the people of Peñasco, Vadito, Rio Lucio, Redarte, Santa Barbara, Trampas, Chamisal, Llano, El Valle, do not wish for our land grants of Santa Barbara and Trampas to be considered as a wilderness
2. Mother Nature accumulates all the abundance of fuel and then comes in with lightning and burns it, Destroying our watersheds And robs us of precious fuel
3. Wilderness is land abandonment
4. No economic benefit
5. Our ancestors protected the wilderness for centuries.
6. Limited management causes nonfunctioning watershed
7. Making people change their interest and use of land
8. Removal of custom and culture of local Hispanic communities
9. Wilderness to me means a traditional ways of living. A way of life that has existed here for hundreds of years. Wilderness should follow the National Plan of 1976. The term wilderness is an oxymoron. Wilderness for me required that the term be defined as it relates to traditional uses of the land. Taking into consideration the people who have lived on the land, for generations.
10. Not certain ... if it takes away traditional use ... and I am not talking oil and gas
11. Wilderness is part of the natural landscape that has very little human activity and management related to natural resources such as timber, water, game and livestock. It means not managed to me. "Wasteland"
12. Take away grazing from ranchers, people from outside trying to tell us how to use it.
13. Areas that do not offer grazing, timber harvest or mineral opportunities.

14. I believe in traditional use and understand multiple use as long as we have a balance and not put recreation at the top of the list. We are all environmentalist to some extent, but we have way to many extremist.
15. Wilderness means more restrictions and laws in place that make it harder for me to make a living and support my family.

Some comments relate to accessibility:

16. Wilderness is an area that is not accessible to the average person. Areas that have been used by inhabitants of an area is not wilderness, and the inaccessible areas are wilderness already, they do not need a designation.
17. I used to think wilderness areas generally good. Now I believe it is accessible only to an elite few (healthy and wealthy). It is impossible to manage in a healthy way. It has become a huge fire hazard.
18. It concerns me, I'm afraid it limits the recreational use of the forest.
19. No access for local people and their needs.
20. Limits access as elderly
21. A piece of federal land not accessible to all citizens
22. Wilderness areas are more conducive to rich person who do not have to make a living off the land
23. We already have the Canjilon Mtn roadless area and use of the mountain is already restricted (can't get off road more than 300 ft by vehicle)

Some comments related to Forest Service management and oversight:

24. It means that the forest service does not want to take care of the forest
25. Control from outside interests
26. Wilderness is a tool used by the federal government to take more land and mismanage it and to push us off!
27. Does not allow current management
28. I do not like wilderness. After all our national forests belong to all the people. When congress designates wilderness, it limits access to a select group of people, not all people.
29. TROUBLE
30. Wilderness is the taking and using of land that rightfully belongs to the people and not the USFS
31. Wilderness is not in the best use of resources or in the best interest of those people that rightfully own the land
32. Land grants are not federal lands
33. Wilderness is wasteland designated by congress and a continued attempt to negatively affect the social and economic livelihood of land based – rural peoples.
34. Wilderness to our community land grant is designation imposed on our former common lands of the land grant without our input.
35. Our community land does not need more wilderness, it denies access to the forest in case of wildfires, no harvesting of wood for our communities to survive. How about a land grant designation instead of a wilderness designation.
36. Wilderness designations are just another means for the government to restrict access to the land.
37. Crippling restrictions that inhibit the ability to actively manage the forest for watershed health and meaningful access for traditional and cultural uses by local communities
38. I feel wilderness is another way of government taking away our access to forest ... no wood gathering ... no motorized recreation ... just another step to keep us out of forest ... or making it harder
39. I feel there are already too many areas designated as wilderness
40. Beautiful green forest, with too much overgrowth of conifers, aspen, and grasses which add to a lot of fuel for a catastrophic fire. Poor to no management because there is no access
41. Oxen to remove dead and dying [trees?] to diminish wildfire risk

42. I feel that we already have enough wilderness, what we need is good management in the national; by making it wilderness will hurt residents
43. To me it means place set aside to as nature intended but too much keeps humans out of areas needed to make a living
44. The concept of wilderness, historically, biologically is an oxymoron. It does not jibe with the legal designation of wilderness. The forests here in New Mexico look the way they do because of the imprint of humans.
45. A place for large predators to live safely
46. Has beauty and is worth having, but we have enough.
47. We don't need wilderness in Northern New Mexico. They bring hardship to native people.
48. The hell with more wilderness areas.

3. Many attendees noted their appreciation for wilderness:

1. Area of restricted use to preserve for future generations
2. Wilderness is necessary to allow many generations to enjoy and use the land
3. Wilderness is an anchor to protect all the ecosystems and lands that surround. Water! Wildlife! Solitude! And benefits to those who use wilderness or live nearby.
4. Clean water, healthy forests, wildlife, light recreation (no motorized)
5. Wilderness nourishes us physically and emotionally
6. Freedom in the forest
7. Wilderness is an extraordinary legal designation that ensures protection of pristine wild lands for present and future generations. With those rugged lands that have always been roadless I believe it appropriate to ensure their continued protections as roadless habitat free of industrial development, yet open for traditional uses and recreation.
8. Solitude, isolation, primal connection to wild places, inspiration, tradition.
9. Wilderness is a natural setting that is home to abundant wildlife and is an area that will remain protected and available for all future generations. My children love wilderness.
10. Wilderness will always be available for my kids and grandkids.
11. Alone, quiet, personal
12. Big views without development
13. Pristine, untrampled, treasure
14. Needed, buffer, clean, quiet, balance
15. Subject primarily to natural events, minimal human influence
16. Feel: unknown; respectful; energize; at peace; contemplative
17. Wilderness should be protected and enjoyed by everyone and should not be disturbed. It is also a sanctuary for wildlife.
18. The wilderness is a good thing because its protected by the government and we have to protect it
19. A place to enjoy the wild nature of the natural world with minimal disturbance by mankind
20. It is an important thing to have – whether you visit it or not
21. Forest set aside for wildlife--some is needed
22. I feel that wilderness is needed, but the rules of what is wilderness are not clear to me.
23. Remote and untouched areas of land.
24. Wilderness is one of the greatest treasures in America.
25. Solitude, quiet, clean air, grazing
26. Opportunity to step back in time
27. Feel that it's misunderstood and it's important that we understand 'management' in relation to multiple use.

28. Opportunity for solitude
29. It is great to have wild places left where it takes most effort to get there and enjoy.
30. It's a place for sanctuary ... a place for solitude to reconnect, reestablish priorities in life.
31. Escape from western tools, digital technology, and social annoyances to tune in with the primal reset button that is Mother Nature.
32. Wilderness areas have some of my favorite places to visit
33. I enjoy having a place to visit where the ATVs are not allowed
34. Opportunities for solitude and recreation and untrammeled management of ecosystem preservation.
35. Ahhh.
36. It means an area kept pristine and undeveloped somewhere for solitude.
37. I think of the generations to come, to enjoy these places.
38. I feel strongly about the importance of wilderness, but believe future wilderness areas need to be considered carefully.
39. An area on the forests – anywhere – that is managed in a non-extractive way where more solitude can be enjoyed.
40. Healthy ecosystems, able to be away from human influence (buildings, noise)
41. Healthier than landscapes with lots of infrastructure
42. Wilderness is land that is left to Mother Nature to manage
43. Management should involve all concerned that use the forest.
44. Wilderness means to me, untouched by man. Nature to grow and blossom in every way! To let nature take its course. I'm not sure how I feel about it.
45. Earthquakes – Canjilon Mountain mine land grant exclusion would help ensure water quality
46. Areas that are not fire dependent for watershed health.
47. Areas that lack of management will not impact the watershed negatively.
48. Like the idea of protecting our lands, at the same time ideas about protection should include stakeholders input and reasonable access where necessary.

4. Some comments were ambiguous or expressed uncertainty

1. Hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas, geothermal, uranium and drinking water can be unavoidably destructive
2. It's good to a point
3. HR2029 Water Rights Udall (Sin Agua, no Vida!)
4. I can see both + & - to wilderness.
5. I feel it is important to have wilderness areas, but also non-wilderness areas are important as well. Depending on the function one would like to do on public lands.
6. Need more skills to enjoy the wilderness – compass skill, etc. Signs are less obvious and only used as necessary at junctions, etc.