

March 29, 2019

Steve Hattenbach
Forest Supervisor
Cibola National Forest
US Forest Service
2113 Osuna Rd. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113



Dear Mr. Hattenbach:

On behalf of the City of Grants, I am writing to ask the US Forest Service, specifically the Cibola National Forest Ranger District, to include the Grants Ridge Trail system in your selected priorities. As a member of the subcommittee for the Mount Taylor Zuni Mountain Collaborative and the Grants Ridge Trail Committee, we have identified a potential trail system north of Grants located 5 miles up highway 547. Our plan is to utilize the old illegal shooting range as a trailhead and parking area and provide access to multiuse stacked loop trails. A main corridor will be established along what was previously NM 547 to connect various trails and recreation areas.

This trail system will enable residents and visitors access to local trails and recreational areas. Increased access to safe trails and recreational areas will help citizen's lead healthier life styles. Many families struggle to find the time and avenues to access places where they can be physically active. This trail, being so close to the City of Grants, will provide a greater opportunity for residents to be more physically active, improve their health, and lower healthcare costs.

Having safe trails and corridors will attract outdoor enthusiasts, providing increased economic benefits through increased hotel, restaurant, and retail spending. Increased economic value has been experienced in similar communities who promote outdoor recreation.

The proposed project is a part of a larger Grants Trails Master Plan which will encompass the Zuni Mountain Trail project, the CDT gateway Community initiative, the Legacy Trail Plan, and more. We have been approved to receive technical assistance from the National Park Service through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program. The Master Plan will include priorities, connections, road improvements, forest health, and future maintenance of the trail systems. The community has been able to attain about 1.5 million towards trail initiatives over the last 4 years. Projects that are in progress or that have been completed include the Rio San Jose Trail Riverwalk Project and the Zuni Mountain Trail Project.

We have the support of the local governments and numerous community partners. We are asking for the support of the Cibola National Forest Service/Mt Taylor Ranger District to place this project among your priorities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Laura Jaramillo". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Laura Jaramillo