

From: Williams, Timothy
To: [Howarth, Robert](#); [Bowman, Randal](#)
Subject: Fwd: Sabinoso Sportsmen Access New Mexico
Date: Friday, May 05, 2017 12:17:29 PM
Attachments: [Sabinoso Access Ltr 5-5-2017.docx](#)

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From: **John Cornell** <jcornell@trcp.org>
Date: Fri, May 5, 2017 at 1:07 PM
Subject: Sabinoso Sportsmen Access New Mexico
To: "timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov" <timothy_williams@ios.doi.gov>

Please see attached letter for Secretary Zinke's attention.

Thanks in advance for your consideration.

John

John Cornell

New Mexico Field Representative

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Department Of The Interior

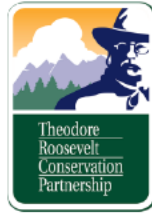
External and Intergovernmental Affairs

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May 5, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke
Secretary of the Interior
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Designated in 2009, the 16,030-acre Sabinoso Wilderness located near Las Vegas, New Mexico, is the only wilderness in the National Wilderness Preservation System that does not have any public access. Right now, the only way you can enjoy the Sabinoso is as a guest of a surrounding landowner. After more than four long years of intensive work by our organizations and other sportsmen in New Mexico, a private foundation now owns the 4,176-acre Rimrock Rose Ranch, the key to public access from a nearby county road.

The private foundation dedicated to conservation and committed to public access has provided a donation of \$3.15 million to acquire the ranch and donate it to the United States. This will create public access to Sabinoso through Canyon Largo, which contains the headwaters of the Canadian River. Spectacular Canyon Largo stretches sixteen miles, with the upper elevations at 6,200 feet. The bottom of the canyon is a meandering riparian strip of green meadows and springs. The diverse flora and wildlife create a microenvironment where mountain lion, black bear, mule deer, Barbary sheep, New Mexico dahl sheep, blue heron, Rio Grande turkey and migratory water fowl reside. It is home to the largest concentration of amphibians in northern New Mexico as well as rare perennial water in this arid landscape.

Since 2009 New Mexico sportsmen and women, along with Senators Heinrich and Udall, have tried to find a solution for creating reasonable access into the Sabinoso. Through good fortune and tenacious work with a willing private seller, we now have that opportunity right in front of us.

Sportsmen all across the west are applauding SO 3347 directing the Bureau of Land Management to identify, inventory and find all possible ways to provide access onto our public lands that are now land-locked and inaccessible. We have no better example of this than the Sabinoso, and a clear solution has been provided.

The opportunity for hiking, backpacking, fishing, hunting, photography and horseback riding in the Sabinoso is immense and the demand for access is high. Access to the Sabinoso Wilderness is sought after by locals and visitors alike, and opening up Sabinoso Wilderness to recreation is one step in the direction of generating a better quality of life for San Miguel citizens and jobs for the community. Newly

The Honorable Ryan Zinke

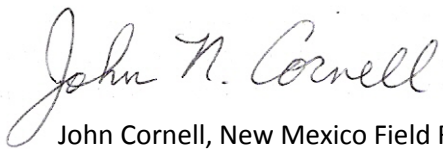
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created access to the Sabinoso Wilderness will be an integral part of economic growth locally and regionally.

New Mexico's hunting draw results are in and fortunate sportsmen are getting ready for this fall's big game hunting seasons. We will be starting to scout as early as this summer. New Mexico sportsmen and women ask for your help to insure that another hunting season doesn't go by without the opportunity to enjoy fair-chase hunting and recreating in the Sabinoso Wilderness. With your help, New Mexico sportsmen and women will be able to enjoy the many recreational opportunities in this New Mexico treasure.

Respectfully,



John Cornell, New Mexico Field Representative
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THEODORE ROOSEVELT CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP – Joel Webster, Director, Center for Western Lands

BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS – Land Tawney, Executive Director

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION – Garrett VeneKlasen, Executive Director

SOUTHWEST CONSOLIDATED SPORTSMEN – John Cornell and Jim Bates, Co-Chairmen

DOÑA ANA COUNTY ASSOCIATED SPORTSMEN – Tony Popp, President

NEW MEXICO SPORTSMEN – Oscar Simpson, State Chair

WILD TURKEY SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION – C. J. Goin, President

SPORTSMEN CONCERN/ LAS VEGAS, NM, AND MORA, NM, CHAPTERS – Max Trujillo, Interim President

BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN OF NEW MEXICO – Oscar Simpson, Public Lands/ Legislative Chair