

# LCAR opposes wilderness act

## Real estate group adopts position on proposed legislation

At its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 28, the Board of Directors of the Las Cruces Association of Realtors Inc. voted unanimously to support the position of the Greater Las Cruces Chamber of Commerce, the Building Industry Association of Southern New Mexico, Elephant Butte Irrigation District, and People for Preserving Our Western Heritage in opposition to the Organ Mountains

– Desert Peaks Wilderness Act as currently written.

According to the group's press release, LCAR shares the concerns of these organizations that the act would create more than 380 square miles of wilderness "where Border Patrol and other law enforcement agencies would be denied access for routine patrol." The group cited the position of the National Association of For-

mer Border Patrol Officers, which said "the risks are far too great that illegal entry and dangerous drug and human smuggling activities would escalate."

The release said the LCAR board strongly believes that designating wilderness on or near the US-Mexico border would have a negative impact on national security and the economy of Doña Ana County.