

HIDALGO COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff: *Saturnino Madero*

Chief Deputy: *Dave Justice*



720 EAST 2ND STREET
LORDSBURG, NEW MEXICO 88045
PHONE:



August 11, 2011

Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman
Subcommittee on Public Lands and Forests
304 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I am writing to oppose S. 1024, which would designate 242,000 acres near our border with Mexico as Wilderness.

The "Prohibition of Certain Uses" section of the Wilderness Act prevents the use of motor vehicles, mechanized equipment and other tools which are vital to local law enforcement. Of additional concern are the five Wilderness study Areas in Hidalgo County, totaling 98,960 acres, which are being promoted as candidates for future legislation.

Given the current situation on our border I find it highly inadvisable to create Federal land use designations which prevent, limit or restrict law enforcement activity.

Thank you for your consideration and please include this as part of the official record.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Saturnino Madero".

Saturnino Madero, Sheriff