



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

Dear Senator Wyden:

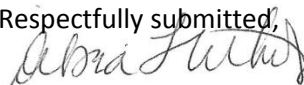
The Las Cruces Tea Party opposes S. 1024, which designates 242,000 acres as Wilderness near our border with Mexico, for the following reasons:

- ° Campers will not be allowed motorized access
- ° Hunters will not be allowed motorized access
- ° Tourists, general recreationists and the handicapped community will not be allowed motorized access
- ° Neither motorized vehicles or mechanical equipment can be used to construct or maintain flood control projects, thereby threatening the health and safety of the citizens
- ° neither motorized vehicles or mechanical equipment can be used by the Border Patrol or state or local law enforcement, thereby threatening the health and safety of the citizens

The Las Cruces Tea Party opposes the designation of land as wilderness in Dona Ana County and strongly recommends that where Federal land is deserving of protection a designation other than wilderness be utilized.

The Las Cruces Tea Party supports the public having more, not less, access to Federal land for their use and enjoyment and therefore strongly opposes the passage of S. 1024.

We ask that this letter be included in the official record. In addition, we ask that the attached excerpts from the August 3, 2011 edition of The Westerner be included in the official record as it gives voice to the concerns of many Dona Ana County residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Debra White, President

Enclosure