

Silver City

## **Will more wilderness affect access?**

Dear editor,

In recent weeks, I have read several letters and columns regarding the possible expansion of wilderness areas in the Gila National Forest. The writers value the forest, as most of us do, for its many opportunities for recreation, hunting and fishing, woodcutting and other uses of its resources. But we must remember that protection brings restrictions.

If these areas were designated as wilderness, many of these activities would no longer be possible. Hunting and fishing from a site with camp trailers and pickups would be a thing of the past. There would be no more going for a "cruise" to look for deer and elk. There would be no more woodcutting. There would be no more access to these lands, our lands, for the elderly or the handicapped.

I believe the forest should continue to be managed under the multiple use concept, allowing grazing, logging, and thinning which will help to prevent catastrophic wildfires such as we have had in the not too distant past.

These lands should be kept open and accessible to all, not just a select few who are able to hike and backpack into the more rugged terrain.

(s)Joyce Biebelle  
San Lorenzo

**Letter Policy**