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CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS  
Co-CHAIR

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0307**

WEBSITE: <http://grijalva.house.gov/>

1511 LONGWORTH HOB  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE (202) 225-2435 | FAX (202) 225-1541

738 N. 5TH AVENUE, SUITE 110  
TUCSON, AZ 85705  
PHONE (520) 622-6788 | FAX (520) 622-0198

130 NORTH STATE AVENUE  
P.O. BOX 4105  
SOMERTON, AZ 85350  
PHONE (928) 343-7933 | FAX (928) 343-7949

13065 WEST McDOWELL ROAD, SUITE C-123  
AVONDALE, AZ 85392  
PHONE (520) 536-3388 | FAX (623) 748-0451

FACEBOOK: [Facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva](https://www.facebook.com/Rep.Grijalva)  
TWITTER: [Twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva](https://twitter.com/RepRaulGrijalva)

February 28, 2014

Coronado Forest Plan Revision  
P.O. Box 1919  
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Coronado National Forest, Plan Revision

Dear Forest Planners,

I am writing today regarding the Forest Plan Revision process for the Coronado National Forest. Significant portions of the Coronado National Forest—including the Tumacacori Highlands, Pajarito Mountains, Patagonia Mountains, and southern Santa Rita Mountains—are within my Congressional District. I know many of these places well, and my office regularly hears from constituents on the many issues and outstanding scenery found there.

Serving on the House Natural Resources Committee has given me particular insight into the challenges and responsibilities facing our land management agencies as well as the too-often-conflicting desires of private industry, various recreational user groups, and the needs of the land itself. I commend the Forest Service, and the staff of the Coronado National Forest in particular, for attempting to fulfill the mission in times of financial constraints and difficult politics.

For southern Arizona, I am a strong advocate of protected open space as an ecological necessity and as a quality-of-life amenity. With Pima County, I have worked to convert developable sensitive lands to secure public lands and open space. I have also worked to provide legislative conservation protections to the Coronado National Forest; including but not limited to: the Tumacacori Highlands Wilderness Act, the Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Act, and the Southern Arizona Public Lands Protection Act.

Southern Arizona is a great place to live and work—and we see more and more people choosing to do so every year. Balancing recreational opportunities for this increasing population with preservation and ecological conservation that this population also values is one of the many challenges facing the Coronado National Forest. This challenge must be met in a

way that does not jeopardize the biodiversity and outstanding natural character of much of the Coronado.

I will continue to do my part in assisting with that endeavor by pursuing legislative measures helpful to achieving these conservation goals. Wilderness designation by Congress, for example, has been an extremely effective tool for preservation and conservation since it became available 50 years ago this year. My experience with the Tumacacori Highlands bill reinforced for me the public's strong and broad desire to see additional Wilderness designated in southern Arizona. I urge the Coronado to take appropriate measures in the final plan to assure all potential wilderness areas retain their wilderness character and remain available for future Congressional consideration as designated Wilderness.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter. I look forward to your response and to continuing this important conversation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end of the name.

Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress