



LAS CRUCES HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION

Affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders and the New Mexico Home Builders Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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The Las Cruces Homebuilders Association is announcing an historic agreement with the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition. Both groups are holding a joint news conference Wednesday announcing the details of the agreement in support of wilderness in Doña Ana County, and new boundaries for the proposed National Conservation Area (NCA) along the Organ Mountains. The agreement follows several months of negotiations between the groups, and adds further momentum to the effort to protect Wilderness in Doña Ana County.

Through this important agreement, the Las Cruces Homebuilders Association helped negotiate a compromise over new conservation boundaries for the NCA, as well as take a strong position in supporting Wilderness and the National Conservation Area Proposal. "This is a great day for Las Cruces when we can all come together to do something truly special for our community. The Las Cruces Home Builders Association is proud to play a leadership role in protecting Doña Ana County's incredible open space and public lands—the reason so many folks come to settle here," said Judd Singer, past president of the Las Cruces Homebuilders and association representative for wilderness issues. "This conservation plan will be great for our community, and it will be good for business," Singer added.

Jeff Steinborn, Southern NM Director for the Wilderness Alliance and a State Representative, echoed Singer's comments. "I applaud the Homebuilders Association for their leadership in working to protect Doña Ana County most important natural public lands. This agreement shows that we all love our special places like the Organ Mountains and Broad Canyon. We have come together for the benefit of our community. This once again demonstrates the high levels of support that exists for enacting the Citizens Proposal, and we hope that we will see legislation soon to implement it."

Mayor Pro-tem of Las Cruces, Dolores Connor, added her praise to the Homebuilder-Wilderness Coalition agreement; "I commend the Las Cruces Homebuilders Association and the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition for making the necessary compromises to develop a strong plan for the protection of our Organ Mountains. We are one community seeking a common goal, for ourselves, and our children and grandchildren."

"The Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition consists of a diverse group of over 180 businesses and 30 organizations," says Jim Bates, Las Cruces resident, member of the Homebuilders Association, and leader of several sportsman groups active in Dona Ana County. "Having the Homebuilders Association on board reinforces the notion that all of these diverse groups and interests can put aside their separate agendas in an effort to achieve a greater good for the community and region as a whole. We have an opportunity at hand to work together to protect our unique natural heritage."

What: Las Cruces Homebuilders Association and the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition – Announcement of new NCA boundaries and joint support of proposed Wilderness areas
Date: September 12, 2007
Time: 1:00 PM
Location: Doña Ana County Commission Chambers