

Champe Green, Forest Planner  
Cibola National Forest and Cibola Grasslands  
2113 Osuna Road, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87113

April 2, 2015

\*Sent via email and certified mail this date\*

Re: Notice of Intent to revise the Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts Land and Resource Management Plan and prepare an associated Environmental Impact Statement.

Dear Mr. Green:

We appreciate the opportunity to submit the attached proposal in response to the Notice of Intent to revise the Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts Land and Resource Management Plan and prepare an associated Environmental Impact Statement.

We are proposing that a 20 acre site be designated as an astronomical observing area in the Cibola National Forest just to the west of Magdalena, NM. This observing area would be available to all who wish to observe the phenomena of the dark skies and partake in associated activities, such as camping and hiking.

A site of this kind depends on preserving the pristine and remote nature of this part of the Forest.

The Magdalena Chamber of Commerce and the newly formed Magdalena Astronomical Society have been (and plan to continue) hosting star parties in this part of the Forest for an enthusiastic public. In addition, there has been extensive outreach to the regional public school children to become involved in astronomical discoveries. The New Mexico Department of Tourism has chosen to sponsor the upcoming ***Enchanted Skies Star Party*** planned for later this month.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

The Magdalena Chamber of Commerce

Catherine DeMaria, President; Ginny Galer, VP; Glenn Bigelow, Treasurer; Nina McCabe, Acting Secretary; John Briggs, Board Member.

The Magdalena Astronomical Society

John Briggs, Bob Pody, Michael Mideke, Judy Stanley, Dan Kinglesmith, Shane Ingate