



April 2, 2015

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

Via email to comments-southwestern-cibola@fs.fed.us

RE: Cibola National Forest Plan Revision
Comments on the Needs for Change and Proposed Action Document, February 9, 2015

Dear Mr. Green,

On behalf of the New Mexico Aviation Division please accept this letter as support for the comments and suggestions made in statements submitted by New Mexico Pilot Association (NMPA) and the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF) regarding the latest needs-for-change statement.

It is encouraging to see recreational aviation mentioned in several places in the needs-for-change statement which is in line with Planning Directives and the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding between the Recreational Aviation Foundation and the USFS. The MOU identifies a number of areas that are mutually beneficial to both the aviation community and the Forest Service.

Our interest is based on a statute that tasks the Division to promote aviation throughout the state. As part of that, an initiative has begun to develop a recreational airstrip network modeled after the one in Idaho. A consortium of Federal, State, and private land owners will work together to implement an action plan to preserve and develop recreational airstrips. We are in the first stages but have already contacted a representative from your agency and received a favorable response.

Thank you for your consideration for our efforts to include aviation in the Cibola National Forest plan. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen L. Summers".

Stephen L. Summers
Division Director

Susana Martinez
Governor

Tom Church
Cabinet Secretary

Stephen L. Summers
Aviation Director

Commissioners

Ronald Schmeits
Chairman
District 4

Dr. Kenneth White
Secretary
District 1

David Sepich
Commissioner
District 2

Butch Mathews
Commissioner
District 5

Jackson Gibson
Commissioner
District 6