

Sept. 25, 2015

To Cibola National Forest
"Supervisor:"

Regarding your M. O. U. and
Cibola National Forest Evaluation
Process.

I George Ramirez (President)
of the Manzano Land Grant,
and the board of Commissioners
are requesting the removal
of the Cibola National Forest
Plan Revision D4 ADJH as
a Suitable Wilderness designation.

We feel that the memorandum
of understanding clearly violates
our rights and is not a
cooperation of communication.

It prohibits and prevents us
from communicating. By
changing the procedures on
meaningful participation in
Forest Service decision making
on resources and use of Forest Land.

These rights and privileges
are secured by Federal Laws.

The Constitution and Bill of Rights
of the United States, Treaties, and
International Law.

First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Principles and terms of contracts and
agreements with the Forest Service also
secure some of these rights and privileges.

These rights and privileges are not simply matters of legal record, in most cases, they constitute the methods which have been established historically to protect the rights reserved by Land Grant and Indian communities upon arrival in the Southwest of the United States Government and the Forest Service. Many of these rights pre-date the National Forest Management Act and, indeed, creation of the Cibola itself. Some are rights of individual forest users, others are rights of the institutions (Tribes, Land Grant communities) themselves.

Finally, and most importantly, these rights protect the lifeblood of the communities to whom they are guaranteed. For example, the right to be free from overly burdensome restrictions upon religious uses of the forest (a right secured by the United States and New Mexico Constitution as a right which is central to the very existence of the Chicano and Indian communities to whom it is guaranteed. Other examples include historical rights and privileges to access to and use of the forest for traditional, small-scale resource utilization. These rights and privileges are not only matters of community economic existence, but are also

essential to the cultural and physical survival of the communities and its members.

Also we have Land Tenure issues much of the land was taken with the understanding that communities' rights to use the land forever (obviously within reasonable bounds of environmentally sound resource management.) These rights protected by the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo (1846), have never been relinquished by the communities.

It also doesn't make sense in Bartolo Canyon, on the "south side of the Forest Road" (the way the wilderness boundaries show) (A long narrow finger shape) "Two miles long" down to the Land Grant boundaries. It will prevent any type of thinning or access in case of wild fires, which would endanger the health, safety, and welfare of New Mexican citizens and private lands.

Sincerely,
President George Ramirez


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