



August 29, 2016

Cibola National Forest and Grasslands Mountain Ranger Districts
Forest Service

RE: Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts Plan Revision

Dear Cibola National Forest

On behalf of the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant, we would like to submit our comments and concerns for final changes and amendments to the final Cibola National Forest Mountain Ranger Districts Plan Revision 2016. First of all we would like to commend the Cibola National Forest for an inclusive process throughout the planning process over the last year, and we truly believe in developing a collaborative plan that meets the needs of local communities as well as the American public as an outcome we all share along the Sandia Mountains. Overall we support some of the plan elements such as the Forest Products section and the Cultural Landscape section to support the relationship and historical use rights of land grant members in the Sandia Ranger District that was once communal lands of the Land Grant. The Cañon de Carnué Land Grant would like to submit the following comments that we feel are important for consideration for inclusion in the final resource management plan:

Page 84, Line 11 Management Approaches

We feel it is important to add a statement that forest products such as traditional materials in the national forest should support effort to preserve the cultural landscape and vernacular traditional building methods of land grant communities to preserve historic communities adjacent to the National Forest. Such as rock, gravel, vigas, latillas, and fuel wood.

Page 89, Line 2-5 Manage Management Approaches for Land Grant Communities

We feel it is important to add a statement about the protection and preservation of cultural and religious shrines.

The Cañon de Carnué Land Grant feels this is important because of the number of shrines and processional routes along the north side of Interstate 40. For many generations there have been a number of cultural shrines that exist and have existed since before the creation of the National Forest.

Page 180-181, Line 10 Sandia Ranger District

We feel it is important to create a Carnué and San Antonio Acequia Management Area for the protection of cultural properties and the protection of the Acequias similar to what is stated for Las Huertas, MA. The language could take from similar language of the Las Huertas MA and then written into the plan for the Carnué and San Antonio Acequia MA. The area is located above the area known as Carlitos Springs in the Sandia Wilderness area.

Comments to Plan Alternatives B (Proposed Action), D, and E

Overall, we agree with the proposed action by the Cibola National Forest in favoring Alternative B as the proposed action; however we do not support Alternative B as it is currently recommended. In 1956, the Forest Service terminated the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant communal grazing permit of the community which forced our community to transform from a subsistent agricultural community to a wage based economy. We feel that restoring communal land grant grazing in some form that assist the forest service in developing creative land management strategies is a good for both forest management and community sustainability. Alternative D and E both restore historical grazing areas for the Cañon de Carnué, San Antonio de Las Huertas, and San Pedro Land Grant. Therefore, we feel that the Sandia Ranger Communal Grazing language in Alternative D and E, would need to be incorporated into Alternative B in order for the Cañon de Carnué Land Grant to support the management action of the Cibola National Forest Management Plan.

We would like to thank the Cibola National Forest for your hard work into the Cibola National Mountain Ranger District Plan Revision and we hope you can consider our recommendations for improving the final actions to the plan. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 505-269-1695.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MG' or similar initials, with a stylized flourish at the end.

Moises Gonzales, President
La Merced de Cañon de Carnué