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First name: Steve

Last name: Summers

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Following the submitted comment below is the complete text from the attached PDF, extracted using Optical Character Recognition and pasted into this text box by Forest Service personnel.

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Comments for Preliminary Statements of Needs for Changes, Cibola NF Plan Update

To the attention of Mr. Champe Green, Forest Planner

Attached is a comment letter regarding the Preliminary Statements of Needs for Changes to the Existing 1985 Cibola Forest Plan.

Respectfully submitted by:

Stephen L. Summers

Aviation Division Director

P.O. Box 9830

Albuquerque, NM 87119

505-244-1788 ext 9115

505-629-8462 Cell

steve.summers@state.nm.us <mailto:steve.summers@state.nm.us>

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New Mexico DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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-forchange statement.

It is encouraging to see recreational aviation mentioned in several places in the needs-forchange 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,

Division Director

Aviation Division P. O. Box 9830 Albuquerque, NM 87119

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Governor

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Stephen L. Summers

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