



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Santa Fe National Forest

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**File Code:** 2670  
**Date:** September 20, 2016

Ms. Barbara Fix  
President  
Native Plant Society of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 35388  
Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388

Dear President Fix:

Thank you for your letter of August 10, 2016. I appreciate you taking the time to express your concern about management of the Holy Ghost ipomopsis (*Ipomopsis sancti-spiritus*) or HGI. In response the Santa Fe National Forest would like to convene a working group consisting of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), New Mexico State Forestry Division (NM Forestry) and Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPS) to begin a dialogue about how we all can work together to further the recovery of the endangered plant. To that end, I am copying George Dennis (USFWS) and Daniela Roth (NM Forestry) in this response.

This group of partners has focused efforts on the protection and recovery of the HGI even before the species was federally-listed as endangered in 1994. We have worked together to monitor populations, assess habitat, collect seeds, transplant, thin encroaching trees, and to protect the HGI from wildfire and post-fire impacts, and road reconstruction. The 2013 Tres Lagunas fire and post-fire flooding, however, highlighted the challenges we all face in ensuring the survival of the HGI. The wildfire itself, post-fire flooding damage, and the follow-up road repairs in Holy Ghost canyon underscored the vulnerability of the HGI and the need to continue our partnership in protection and recovery efforts.

I invite you along with USFWS and NM Forestry to a collaboration meeting, sometime this winter, with key members of my staff from the Pecos – Las Vegas Ranger District and Supervisors Office and our regional office to discuss opportunities to work in partnership on behalf of the HGI. It is time for us to again come together to renew acquaintances, introduce new staff and continue our dialogue on future protection and recovery efforts. Please contact Pecos – Las Vegas District Ranger Steve Romero, at 505-757-6121, to discuss possible dates and times to meet. I look forward to our continued partnership to promote the recovery of the species, as we share a common goal of protecting and recovering the Holy Ghost ipomopsis.

Sincerely,

  
for **MARIA T. GARCIA**  
Forest Supervisor

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