



Native Plant Society of New Mexico

P. O. Box 35388

Albuquerque, NM 87176-5388

Supervisor James Duran
Carson National Forest
208 Cruz Alta Road
Taos, NM 87571

Supervisor James Melonas
Santa Fe National Forest
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Supervisor Steve Hattenbach
Cibola National Forest
2113 Osuna Road, NE
Albuquerque, NM 87113

Regional Forester Cal Joyner
Southwestern Region
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

February 27, 2019

Dear Supervisors Duran, Melonas, and Hattenbach and Regional Forester Joyner:

The Native Plant Society of New Mexico appreciates the opportunities that have been provided by the US Forest Service to participate in revision of the land management plans for all five National Forests in our state. We have taken advantage of those opportunities by responding to several calls for public comment on planning documents, as the plans evolve. NPSNM is a non-profit organization with approximately 900 members in seven chapters located around the state and in El Paso, Texas. Our mission is to educate the public about native plants by promoting knowledge of plant identification, ecology, and uses; foster plant conservation and the preservation of natural habitats; support botanical research; and encourage the appropriate use of native plants to conserve water, land, and wildlife.

The possibility has come to our attention that the three draft plans for the Carson, Santa Fe, and Cibola National Forests may be released at the same time or in close succession. We write today to strongly request that you space out the publication of the three draft plans and the respective comment periods so that our organization, our membership, and the general public can more fully

participate in each and give them the attention they deserve. Reviewing a draft Environmental Impact Statement is a considerable endeavor. It would be very difficult for many interested parties to engage meaningfully in all three processes if the comment periods were to significantly overlap. That is especially true for a small, statewide, volunteer-based organization such as ours. It is likely that other stakeholders who are participating in more than one of these planning processes share our concerns.

Thank you for considering this request. Please do not hesitate to contact the undersigned if you would like to discuss the matter further. We look forward to our continued participation in the plan revisions.

Sincerely,



Rachel Jankowitz, Conservation Chair
Native Plant Society of New Mexico