



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
Santa Fe

February 18, 2023

Chief Randy Moore  
United States Forest Service  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0003

Rc: New Mexico House of Representatives Response to the United States Forest Service's Intent to Exterminate Unauthorized Livestock in the Gila National Forest by Aerial Means

Dear Chief Moore:

It has come to the attention of the New Mexico House of Representatives that the United States Forest Service, Southwest Region, is again intending to shoot and kill cattle in the Gila National Forest by aerial means. While we understand that the Forest Service has indicated it is acting to prevent damage to the Gila National Forest, we write to express our concern and opposition to once again using this inhumane means of removing unauthorized livestock.

Reports Office Forest Service shooting twenty-nine bulls, thirty-two and four calves from a helicopter during the week of February 10, 2022, were met with criticism and scrutiny from a diverse array of New Mexicans. Reports indicated and photographs showed how these animals were cruelly stressed, wounded, and left to suffer horrible deaths.

It is our understanding that the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and other stakeholders have met with the Forest Service and Animal Plant Health Inspection Service officials to devise a more humane plan of action. The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association and owners of allotments adjacent to the Gila have offered more humane means of removing the animals and are prepared to cooperate in the endeavor.

New Mexico's rich history of cattle and land stewardship calls for a collaborative effort to addressing this issue. Shooting cattle and leaving them to rot is a tremendous waste of resources

Chief Randy Moore  
United State Forest Service  
Page 2  
February 18, 2023

in light of our ability and will to conduct a round-up or remove them by humane means. Shooting these cattle from the air is a stain on New Mexico's longstanding respect for our animals and the land.

With bipartisan unity, the New Mexico House of Representatives asks that the United States Forest Service immediately cease any plans to shoot cattle in the Gila National Forest by aerial means. We ask that the Forest Service collaborate with the New Mexico Livestock Board and other New Mexico stakeholders to humanely remove the animals.

Sincerely,

New Mexico House of Representatives



Javier Martinez  
Speaker of the New Mexico House of Representatives




Gail Chasey  
House Majority Floor Leader



Reena Szczepanski  
House Majority Whip

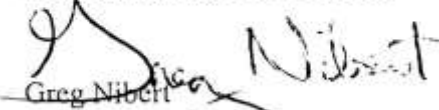
house majority whip



Raymundo Lara  
House Majority Caucus Leader



Ryan Lane  
House Minority Floor Leader



Greg Nibert  
House Minority Whip



Gail Armstrong  
Gail Armstrong  
House Minority Caucus Leader

Chief Randy Moore  
United States Forest Service  
Page 3  
February 18, 2023

cc:

Honorable Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Secretary Tom Vilsack  
Secretary Deb Haaland  
Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Honorable Ben Ray Lujan, Jr.  
Honorable Melanie Stansbury  
Honorable Teresa Leger  
Honorable Gabe Vasquez  
Executive Director Belinda Garland, New Mexico Livestock Board