

January 25, 2023

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

Dear Chief Moore:

We refer you to and emphatically reiterate our letter of February 6, 2022 (copy attached). Almost a year (and one lawsuit) later, we again find it necessary to write you regarding the Forest Service's blatant disregard for the law of New Mexico. As previously established, the laws governing estrays in New Mexico are quite clear. Section 77-13-1 NMSA 1978 et seq. Intentional injury to livestock is a felony. Section 30-18-12 NMSA 1978.

Your actions in 2022 resulted in a lawsuit to prevent the Forest Service from slaughtering cattle in the Gila Wilderness by shooting them from a helicopter. As you know, the lawsuit was settled in July of 2022. Under the terms of the settlement USFS agreed to give 75 days notice before commencing any future sniper operations. We are informed that, following the settlement, USFS engaged with the various stakeholders and the New Mexico Livestock Board to explore non-lethal options for the removal of estrays from the Gila. Now it seems that all those conversations with stakeholders and the New Mexico Livestock Board were fruitless, or that USFS did not enter into the conversations in good faith.

Your 2022 operation resulted in the killing of 63 cattle. We are not aware of how many more you intend to kill this year, but we sincerely doubt that the number would be sufficient to cause any damage to an area as vast as the Gila Wilderness. Your proposed actions are contrary to law. We urge you to seek a more humane and less wasteful method of removing the estrays from the wilderness.

Respectfully submitted,

Candy Spence Ezzell
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 58
Ranking Member, House Agriculture,
Acequias & Water Resources Committee

Rod Montoya
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 1

Mark Duncan
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 2

T. Ryan Lane
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 3

Tanya Mirabal Moya
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 7

Brian G. Baca
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 8

Stefani Lord
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 22

Alan Martinez
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 23

William "Bill" R. Rehm
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 31

Jenifer Jones
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 32

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New Mexico State Representative Dist. 49
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Randall T. Pettigrew
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 61

Larry R. Scott
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 62

Andrea Reeb
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 64

Jimmy G. Mason
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 66

Jack Chatfield
New Mexico State Representative Dist. 67

***Signatures on File**

CC: Governor of the State of New Mexico Honorable Michelle Lujan-Grisham
Lt. Governor of the State of New Mexico Honorable Howie Morales
New Mexico Speaker of the House Javier Martinez
New Mexico Senate Pres. Mimi Stewart
New Mexico Attorney General Raul Torres
New Mexico Senate Congressional Delegation
New Mexico US Senator Martin Henrich
New Mexico US Senator Ben Ray Lujan
New Mexico US Congressman Gabe Vasquez
New Mexico US Congresswoman Melanie Stansbury
New Mexico US Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernandez
New Mexico US Forest Service
New Mexico State Livestock Board – Belinda Garland
New Mexico Cattle Growers – Bronson Corn
New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture – Jeff Witte

New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau – Elizabeth Foster
Forest Supervisor Adam Mendonca Manager – Gila National Forest
New Mexico Sherriff's Departments
New Mexico Association of Counties
Southwestern Region 3 Regional Forester Michiko Martin
US Fish & Wildlife Services – Amy Lueders
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
NRA Tara Mica
Secretary Vilsak- USDA –Agriculture