

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 27, 2019

The Honorable Vicki Christiansen
USDA Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20250-1111

Dear Chief Christiansen:

We write regarding the reported impacts of the recent pause of several forest activities on national forests in New Mexico as a result of the District Court of Arizona's decision that the U.S. Forest Service is not taking the necessary steps to recover the Mexican Spotted Owl as required by the Endangered Species Act.

We strongly encourage the Forest Service and other parties to the lawsuit to work quickly to respond to the ruling and resolve a variety of issues, including, but not limited to, traditional firewood gathering, tribal cultural activities, and forest restoration and fire mitigation projects. We likewise strongly urge the Forest Service to undertake the action necessary to comply with the Endangered Species Act to allow the resumption of forest activities and minimize impacts to traditional uses and projects that improve the long-term health of the forest.

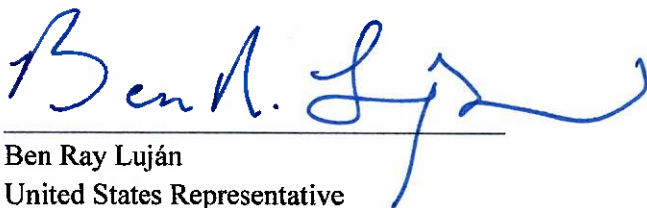
Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Representative



Deb Haaland
United States Representative



Xochitl Torres Small
United States Representative