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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Jun 26, 2019

Forest Supervisor James Melonas

Dear Forest Supervisor Melonas,

"Sooner or later, wittingly or unwittingly, we must pay for every intrusion on the natural environment." - Barry Commoner, US biologist/environmentalist

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Document for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project. I appreciate the Forest Service soliciting public comment on this project, but have a number of concerns with the Forest Service's proposal:

1. An EA is inappropriate for a project of this scale and complexity that impacts many threatened and sensitive species, old growth forests, roadless areas and streams and riparian areas. Because this project will have significant impacts to these and other resources, a thorough, site-specific analysis of all environmental impacts in an Environmental Impact Statement is required.
2. The Forest Service must analyze a full range of alternatives to the agency's proposal, including the Santa Fe Conservation Alternative submitted by WildEarth Guardians and others.
3. The Forest Service must identify and implement the minimum road system on a landscape scale and employ a thoughtful, strategic approach to assuring public access while reducing negative impacts from forest roads to water quality and aquatic habitats, and improving watersheds and forest resiliency by returning expensive, deteriorating, and seldom-used forest roads to the wild.
4. The Forest Service must consider the best available science. The agency cannot cherry-pick the science and data to support its proposal while ignoring contrary, credible views and data.
5. Climate change intensifies the adverse impacts associated with tree thinning, prescribed burning, and roads. The Forest Service must consider the risks of increased disturbance when analyzing the proposed project, as part of the affected environment, and as part of the agency's hard look at impacts.
6. The Forest Service must analyze the cumulative impacts of the proposed project with all other past, present and foreseeable future projects within the broader landscape, including the Hyde Park and Pacheco Canyon projects, livestock grazing, and motorized use.

This is God's land and animals that we are here to protect for future generations and our ecosystem.

Ask yourself, "What is our purpose, with our limited time on this earth, that will leave our environment in a better place than we found it?"

"The best way to predict the future, is to create it. -Dennis Gabor,
physicist/1971 Nobel Prize in Physics

'A Hero is any person really intent on making this a better place for
all people.' -Maya Angelou

"We won't have a society if we destroy the environment." -
Margaret Mead

"Man did not weave the web of life - he is merely a strand in it.
Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself." -Chief Seattle

"Earth was created for ALL LIFE, not just human life." -Anthony D.
Williams

Sincerely,

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