July 8, 2019

Mr. Melonas
Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe National Forest

Below are my scoping comments on the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project:

1. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) must be done because of the sheer size of the project and the scientific controversy regarding the cause of large forest fires. An Environmental Analysis (EA) is insufficient. This project would inevitably have a very significant impact on habitat, soil, wildlife, water quality, and public health.

2. Many scientists believe that Increased fires are the result of global warming rather than too many trees. Studies have shown that logged/thinned forests are more prone to fires than intact forests, and that thinning forests does little to reduce fire. We need more trees, not less, to help sequester carbon and help curb global warming. Removing trees by burning is a double whammy because this puts more carbon into the atmosphere and worsens the global warming problem. The issue of global warming needs to be analyzed in depth, including quantifying carbon emissions and reduced sequestration ability that would result from implementing the proposed project. And the alternative action of planting trees rather than removing them needs to be considered.

3. The impact of forest fire smoke on public health, and its associated costs, also need to be analyzed in detail. There is no safe level of 2.5 particulate matter. Everyone who breathes smoke is being adversely impacted to some degree. Especially vulnerable populations, like the young, pregnant women, the elderly, those with chemical sensitivities, cardiovascular disease, asthma, or respiratory disease, and even those with diabetes, are at increased risk from exposure to smoke and these groups account for more than half the population. Repeated prescribed burns exposes people to much more smoke than a rare natural fire that might occur in the project area. Furthermore, smoldering fires such as those that occur during prescribed burns emit more particulate matter than hotter fires.

Please keep me informed about activities and decisions regarding this project.

Thank you.

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Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

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