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Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

I am a member of a family that has lived in Canada de los Alamos since the land was homesteaded in &gt;&gt;&gt;. Our family has depended on the firewood collected from the surrounding forest to cook food and warm their homes for many years. How will your proposed thinning/burning affect our ability to continue to use the resources provided by the forest?

A forest fire has always been a concern for us since we reside so close to the forest. So we, as a community, are not opposed to some thinning of the overgrowth in the area or putting into place a long-term plan to maintain the forest through cutting of firewood, etc. However, what you are proposing to do would result in a much scarier scenario that would affect not only the families in this area, but affect the environment for many generations to come.

Ultimately, how is this thinning/burning of the forest going to affect our ecosystem? If you destroy the forest, there are all kinds of changes that will take place. First of all it will affect the wildlife in the area. They will be forced to move out of the area. There will be no firewood or pinon nuts available to many future generations. But the most devastating thing that will occur is that our landscape will become a desert. There will be no more rain! You realize when you remove trees it changes the entire ecosystem! Our forest will not only become a desert, there will be no wildlife, no resources for the families in the area, but more importantly, there will be no rain, no snow!!! Why do you think God put forests on the planet in the first place? We are already in a drought crisis, why would anyone in their right mind make that whole situation a million times worse!!! It takes moisture to create clouds which create rain and snow. Anybody knows that! If the landscape is barren of trees, it will affect our rainfall and snowfall immensely! The city of Santa Fe gets most of it's water supply from the snowfall in the mountains around Santa Fe! It will take decades for the trees to regrow if they ever grow back because there will be no seed available to begin new growth of the forest trees.

This plan must be talked about and studies must be conducted before something this devastating is done because there will be no going back. Once it's done, the result could affect our people and our environment for many, many years to come. We, as a community, will never see the forest again in our lifetime.

We must take pause, we must re-think this proposal.

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