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

Jun 26, 2019

Forest Supervisor James Melonas

Dear Forest Supervisor Melonas,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Document for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project.

I have a number of concerns with the Forest Service's proposal:

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. A thorough, site-specific analysis of all environmental impacts in an Environmental Impact Statement is required.

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.
- identify and implement the minimum road system for public access.
- public access must reducing negative impacts from forest roads to water quality and aquatic habitats
- improve watersheds and forest resiliency by returning expensive, deteriorating, and seldom-used forest roads to the wild.

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.

As you know, 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.

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.

Sincerely,

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