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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 Forest Service's accepting public comment on this project. I have several concerns with the Forest Service's proposal:

First, an Environmental Assessment is inappropriate for a project of this scale and complexity that impacts many threatened and sensitive species, old growth forests, roadless areas, streams, and riparian areas. Because this project will have significant consequences for these and other resources, a thorough, a thorough Environmental Impact Statement is required for this site.

Second, the Forest Service must analyze the full range of alternatives to its proposal, including the Santa Fe Conservation Alternative submitted by WildEarth Guardians and others.

Third, 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 on water quality and aquatic habitats, and improving watersheds and forest resiliency by returning expensive, deteriorating, and seldom-used forest roads to the wild.

Fourth, 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.

Fifth, climate change intensifies the damage 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 the agency's thorough, science-based consideration of impacts.

Sixth, the Forest Service must analyze the cumulative effects of the proposed project in conjunction 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.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

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