

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 8/5/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Pat

Last name: Walke

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Mr. Melonas,

1 ADEQUATE TIME FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: I request that you give us more site specific information and extend the comment period from 30 days to 90 days. I request that you structure your so-called PUBLIC COMMENT MEETING to give time for the public to actually comment. I sat through a 2 1/2 hours of lectures given by your staff on 6/24/19 at your headquarters at 11 Forest Lane . We were told we had 45 minutes to make short comments the time frame of 30 days and the tiny bit of, public comment time compared to the SFFS presentation sends a very clear message that you do not want to hear from the public.

2. LAW OF THE LAND: comprehensive environmental impact statement be completed prior to any tree cutting and burning on forested public lands above Santa Fe: This environmental review must: first, recognize the lawful right of citizens to be fully informed participants in managing their lands; second, must evaluate a full range of alternatives, including those based on scientific opinion opposed to extensive vegetation clearing; and third disclose and

evaluate all cumulative impacts on air quality from prescribed burning, the effects of mechanical treatments on water quality, soils and wildlife including stream sedimentation, soil erosion, displacement of wildlife, habitat modification and the spread of invasive weed species.

3. ECONOMIC IMPACT: The Santa Fe forest is so close to the City of Santa Fe, I fear for the impact of these endless Forest Service burns on the economy of our lovely city. As a retired business owner in Santa Fe, I am deeply concerned about the effect of the smoke from these ongoing burns on local businesses. I have been hearing of tourists in the last 3 years actually saying they won't return due to the smoke in the air from these low grade but constant Forest Service fires. I know of an art vendor who can not be out side to sell her painting when your doing control burns.

4. PUBLIC HEALTH: My health and the health of many of our citizens , particularly the elderly and children, is being hurt by this repeated burning so close to where we live. Our city residents are suffering. There is no known safe level of exposure to small particulate matter in smoke. And I am concerned about the cumulative exposure of people and wildlife to toxic fire accelerants.

5. ROADS: Roadless forests above Santa fe should be protected as Wilderness to stabilize the climate and provide opportunities for outdoor recreation critical to Santa Fe's economy. Clearing vegetation and burning in roadless areas does nothing to improve the safety of residents living adjacent to the forest. Most old roads should be completely obliterated instead of improved for access by tree clearing equipment. Roads harm water supplies, degrade wildlife habitat, spread invasive plants and diseases and allow access to arsonists and wildlife poachers.

6. AFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WISDOM OF PRESCRIBED BURNS: 217 scientists, including some of the top fire ecologists in the country, sent a letter to Congress last fall that questioned prescribed burning as a solution. They made the point " that most of our fires wilt occur during extreme fire-weather [high - winds and temperatures , low humidity, tow vegetation moisture]. These fires will affect large landscapes, regardless of thinning, and in some cases, burn hundreds of thousands of acres in just a few days." (Wildfire Today ill Gabber Posted on September 22, 2018

Pat Walke
1934 Hano Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505

June 29, 2019

Mr. James Melonas *J.M.M.*
Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe National Forest
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87505

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Sincerely, Pat Walke

