

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 8/6/2019 12:00:00 AM  
First name: Ellen  
Last name: Kohn  
Organization:  
Title:  
Comments:  
RE: Scoping comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Dear Mr. Melonas,

As a resident of Santa Fe, I am deeply concerned about the enormous size of this project, the short comment period allowed for the public and the repeated response by the Forest Service employees that there will be no Environmental Impact Statement regarding its effect on our beloved forest. It took longer to approve the small Railyard Project than it did to decide on the "fire adapting" of this 50,556-acre project. It forces me to wonder why when the ramifications are so significant.

I would like to know why there is such a rush to push this cutting and burning of our forests when it is such a permanent, irreparable action? If fire is a natural process of these forests, why are we pushing it unnaturally? Yes, the odds that fire will occur is obvious, but, why exacerbate the risks? Fire suppression was the rule for 100 years and now the Forest Service proposes the exact 180 degree opposite as the new rule? This seems to be an equally dangerous and short-sighted view.

It appears the Forest Service is using the fear of fire to convince citizens - especially those in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)- of the potential danger instead of providing them with funds (if needed) and resources to treat around their homes in order to be more protected in the event of a fire. I do not see where Dr. Chad Hansen's or Dr. Jack Cohen's research is considered and used as a baseline for home protection.

I am also concerned there is not an obvious opportunity for climate scientists to weigh in during this critical climate crisis, which is causing devastating losses of species, habitat, and plants in our local Santa Fe area and throughout the world. I request the Forest Service to investigate the work of more climate scientists such as Dr. Dominick DellaSala before the implementation of this plan.

With climate change looming over us, the last thing we need is to reduce our carbon sequestering plants. These plants provide Santa Fe our only buffer against the crisis. We truly need every tree we have and every other plant in Santa Fe to help attract moisture and rain, keep the ground cool as temperatures rise, help decrease winds and prevent the spread of pests and parasites traveling from tree to tree fostered by thinning.

There already is a natural thinning occurring due to the drought conditions of the last decade. Why increase those conditions now rather than follow the lead of the natural environmental cycles?

I would also like you to consider the health of wildlife and the public when using the aerial ignitions using potassium permanganate, ethylene glycol and diesel fuel. A true interest in public safety could include investigating how these chemicals are currently affecting our health and well-being. Additionally, it must be noted how the impact of implementing the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project applies to the economy, tourism and reputation of Santa Fe which was once rated as one of the cleanest cities in the country and now is rated B.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these great concerns.

Mr. James Melonas

Forest Supervisor Santa Fe National Forest 11 Forest Drive Santa Fe, NM  
87508

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Project

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I am also concerned there is not an obvious opportunity for climate scientists to weigh in during this critical climate crisis, which is causing devastating losses of species, habitat, and plants in our local Santa Fe

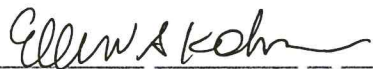
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Thank you for your time and consideration of these great concerns.



Sincerely,

173 Chisholm Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87506

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 7/10/2019 7:21:55 PM

First name: Ellen

Last name: Kohn

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Dear Mr. Melonas,

As a resident of Santa Fe, I am deeply concerned about the enormous size of this project, the short comment period allowed to the public, and the repeated response by the Forest Service employees that there will be no Environmental Impact Statement regarding its effects on our beloved forest. It took longer, with more public input, to approve the small Railyard Project, in comparison to the 50,000 acres in this project.

I would like to know why there is such a rush to push this permanent cutting and burning of our forests? Please extend the comment period to 90 days for a more democratic process.

The Forest Service is arguing that the entire forest needs to be thinned and burned, but, the research of Dr. Chad Hansen and Dr. Jack Cohen shows that the most effective mitigation of damaged property in the event of wildfire is to directly treat around homes and structures. This current science must be considered carefully.

I would like for you to allow the climate scientists with experience in forestry, such as Dr. Dominick Della Salla, PhD, to weigh in during this critical time of massive loss of species, habitat, and plants in our local Santa Fe area and throughout the world before settling on the final draft of this plan.

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I feel the last thing we need is to cut our carbon sequestering plants. They provide Santa Fe our only buffer against the climate crisis. We truly need every tree we have and every other plant in Santa Fe to help us bring moisture and rain, keep the ground cool as the temperatures rise, and decrease winds and the spread of pests and other parasites on trees that occur with thinning.

I would also like you to consider the health of the wildlife and the public when using aerial ignitions containing potassium permanganate, ethylene glycol and diesel fuel and how these are currently affecting our health and well-being. These harmful chemicals also impact the economy, tourism and reputation of Santa Fe as one of the cleanest cities in the country. Many citizens of Santa Fe are complaining about current fires and the health affects (whereas the equally impacted wildlife cannot).

I am also concerned about opening roads (either lightly loaded or inventoried roadless areas) and increasing the exposure of our wilderness to further exploitation by industry which can degrade wildlife habitat, spread invasive species, and allow arsonist and wildlife poachers free access. Many roads in the forest should be completely obliterated, not improved for access.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.?

Sincerely,

Ellen Kohn

Mind~Body~Spirit

Energy Healing & Spiritual Counseling

[www.Enlightenedanimals.com](http://www.Enlightenedanimals.com)

[horsesrock4me@gmail.com](mailto:horsesrock4me@gmail.com)

(303) 503-3125 mobile