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Thoughts on Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Dear Forest Service Officials of the Santa Fe National Forest Region ,

After reviewing your proposed plans for burning , thinning , and "restoring" in the Santa Fe mountain region , I hereby need to voice my most vigorous and heartfelt protest and opposition to your activities and procedures funded by the people's taxes . I am a native of Santa Fe and have spent a large portion of my life hiking , skiing , camping and communing with the natural world of the Santa Fe Mountains since I was 4 years old (currently 61).What I have personally seen recently in Hyde Park ,La Cueva , and the Jemez mountains makes me greatly fear for the future of the local ecosystems , wildlife , trees and people in the path of resulting smokeout of forest thinning and burning .

Now I realize that many of you have college degrees in silviculture , forest management and biology etc .but I'm very much doubting your ability to see the larger picture of the forest as an evolving ecosystem guided by its own innate wisdom and natural laws .Your claims that you need to correct former fire suppression policies and unhealthy densities of trees ,denies nature's own resilience and wisdom to do what it needs to do without being orchestrated by humans who don't understand the forest's own natural evolution .Furthermore , fires always break out in unexpected places and remote areas so your cutting , thinning and burning will always be inadequate to address the inherent randomness of fire's origins .

I know there are many well intentioned , sincere people in the Forest Service who believe they are doing the right thing with thinning , cutting , and burning in the Santa Fe mountains . If you are careful and concerned guardians of the Forest and wildlands , I invite you to implement a full and unbiased Environmental Impact statement , and a full review and analysis of the possible consequences of what you are intending to do .I've been a little disturbed by the arrogance and inability to listen to local concerned citizens by the Forest Service Hierarchy- after all , this is a democracy and you are charged with doing the highest and best thing for the forest and all its residents .Hopefully , there will be more public input and monitoring of what has seemed to be a very secretive and dictatorial approach to forest management in the future . I was part of a successful campaign to stop the Santa Fe Ski Area from ill conceived plan of building lifts into the Big Tesuque Basin and will continue to fight for well balanced and cooperative (all concerned parties - not just forest service officials and their contractors) management of the beautiful , natural heritage of the Santa Fe National Forest .Thank you for your time and concern ,Mr.Page C Press

PS Two of the worst fires in this region in the past 10 years have been caused by powerlines breaking and sparking - now that would be an effort I could support - having an inventory of high risk power lines that could start another catastrophic fire with branches or trees falling on such lines !