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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

To the Forest Service,

I wish to submit this comment regarding the "Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project" for the Santa Fe National Forest.

I am dismayed that the Trump administration - in cahoots with logging interests and lobbyists - are using the fear of wildfires to stoke such an ill considered plan to aggressively clear, thin, and burn our precious forests. Far too much research demonstrates the foolhardiness of this kind of blunderbuss approach to protecting our town. This plan seems, among other things, to be an ugly and mighty deceptive timber grab that would destroy the homes of countless woodland animals, wrecking the ecological integrity of these forests primarily to put money in the pockets of a few folks who couldn't care less about the lives of deer, and Abert's squirrels, and elk, of black bears and hairy woodpeckers and Mexican spotted owls and thrushes and goshawks. And who couldn't care less about those of us who really live here, or about the lives of the great trees themselves, these towering ponderosa pines or the aspen groves whose sensitive trunks all rise from a common rhizomal root system underground, whose chattering leaves grace our lives each summer with their hushed gossip, and fill our hearts with wonder every autumn as their honey-gold shimmer blankets the slopes (as if these mountains were all cloaked in Jason's golden fleece), and then in winter we're enchanted by their white trunks etched with black eyes gazing back at us as we ponder their linear black shadows upon the white snow, and the fractal complexity of their branches against the intense blue sky.

For any and all of us who've lived in this town for more than a few years, our own lives and our psyches are thoroughly entangled with the leafing and needled sentience of these forests - these woodlands are a part of our own health and our own wholeness (since, after all, the oxygen these trees breathe out is what all of us need to breathe in, and since what all us animals breathe out is precisely what all of these deep-rooted and needled folks need to breathe in for their own photosynthetic metabolism). These forests, these trees are completely a part of us, as we're a part of them - each a part of each other -- and we can't let their fate, which is our fate, be decided in such a slapdash fashion. I am not at all against carefully thought through selective logging, nor carefully planned prescribed burning when it can really help. But this is hardly such a thought-through and necessary plan. So why is this being rushed through, without even the research for a careful Environmental Impact Statement, when it will profoundly affect our lives, the culture of our city, and the integrity of our wildlands? To me it seems a travesty, and along with many I will stand strong against it.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Abram
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