

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 7/10/2019 7:20:03 PM
First name: Joanne
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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
"Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project"

Mr. James Melonas Forest Supervisor

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

RE: Scoping comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Mr. Melonas,

I am deeply concerned for my friends and the residents of Santa Fe 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 their 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 the forests? Please extend the comment period to 90 days for a more democratic process.

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 the local Santa Fe area and throughout the world before settling on the final draft of this plan.

I feel the last thing needed is to cut the carbon sequestering plants. They provide Santa Fe the only buffer against the climate crisis. They truly need every tree they have and every other plant in Santa Fe to help 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 the 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 the 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,

Joanne Bundy

