

Re: Comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

July 8, 2019

From:

Patricia Mann RN, MSN
Santa Fe, New Mexico

To:

Mr. James Melonas, Forest Supervisor
Hannah Bergemann, Fireshed Coordinator
Joe Norell, Deputy Forest Supervisor
Josh Hail, Ecosystems
Lance Elmore, Fire and Aviation
Julie Anne Overton, Public Affairs Officer
c/o Santa Fe National Forest
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508

Dear Mr. Melonas, Ms. Bergemann, Mr. Norell, Mr. Hail, Mr. Elmore, Ms. Overton,

As a native New Mexican and 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.

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.

Please include an Environmental Impact Statement. This project will impact all the citizens of the Santa Fe area as well as the plants, trees, animals and animal and bird habitats in a severe and unhealthy way.

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. Leaving downed trees/ slash on the ground can also draw bark beetle infestations. We cannot afford to lose thousands of healthy trees as occurred in the past due to bark beetles.

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 personally am severely affected as are many people I know by the smoke and the toxic chemicals that are in the air when prescribed burns are being conducted. This year, 2019 has been especially difficult as the USFS has extended prescribed burns and "managed burns" into July. These burns are becoming larger and larger and smoke from burns from other US Forest Service areas of New Mexico are reaching Santa Fe.

People with Chemical Sensitivities, Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Emphysema, Heart disease and other serious health and respiratory disorders are being made extremely ill from all the smoke. Our children and the elderly are especially affected. Santa Fe has a large population of elderly and retired people. It appears the US Forest Service does not consider smoke from the prescribed burns to be a public health hazard. It is time to wake up to this fact. This smoke is literally **life threatening** for many people.

Please take into consideration all the impacts of this Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project. Please consider the health of the people and animals. Please extend the deadline for public comments. Please provide an Environmental Impact Statement.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Patricia Mann RN, MSN
Health Care Professional, Registered Nurse
Santa Fe, New Mexico