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Organization:
Title:
Comments:
Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Jun 25, 2019

Forest Supervisor James Melonas

Dear Forest Supervisor Melonas,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Document for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project. Because we are losing wildlife, wildlife habitats, and whole eco-systems at an alarming rate, I have a number of concerns with the Forest Service's proposal:

1. An EA is completely inappropriate for a project of this size and complexity that impacts many threatened and sensitive species, old growth forests, roadless areas and streams and riparian areas. A thorough, site-specific analysis of all environmental impacts in an Environmental Impact Statement is required.
2. The Forest Service should analyze the full range of alternatives to the agency's proposal, including the Santa Fe Conservation Alternative.
3. The Forest Service should identify and implement the minimum road system on a landscape scale and employ an intelligent, strategic approach to assuring public access while reducing negative impacts from forest roads to water quality and aquatic habitats, and improving watersheds and forest resiliency. This can be done in part by returning expensive, deteriorating, and seldom-used forest roads to the wild.
4. The Forest Service should consider the best available science. The agency should not pick the science and data to support its proposal while ignoring contrary credible views and data.
5. Climate change intensifies the adverse impacts associated with tree thinning, prescribed burning, and roads. The Forest Service should consider the risks of increased disturbance when analyzing the proposed project.
6. The Forest Service should analyze the cumulative impacts of the proposed project with all other past, present and foreseeable future projects within the broader landscape, including the Hyde Park and Pacheco Canyon projects, livestock grazing, and motorized use.

Please do what is right for our threatened environment and help it to be truly resilient.

Sincerely,

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