

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 8/5/2019 12:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

To the Forest and Fireshed Coalition,

From the Nation Magazine, the Christian Science Monitor, YES!, we hear that carbon "farming", "ranching", "gardening" can reduce emissions restore ecological balance, and offer hope to the rising generation; i.e, regenerative practices in our forests will remove the carbon that fuels climate disturbance when it is in our atmosphere.

As homeowners adjacent to the Santa Fe Forest, Forest Rd 79, we question the unprecedented scale of this project, its reluctance to reveal specific details, and seeming lack of deep environmental analysis. For example, necessarily road/machines will intrude into wildlife habitat; this effects a loss of wildlife security, especially if, as I understand, the clearing of the forest and ensuing burn of slash (piled high -- why? for fire intensity), will happen at intervals (every 10 years). Reminder that Aldo Leopold highlights the value of every member of our ecosystem, whether or not we understand each one's function.

"In wilderness lies salvation of the world," (Thoreau), and this project's impacts to our wilderness (roadless areas have great value!) will lessen the economic value of our home, and most certainly our joy of inhabiting our forest.

You state in your letter to the public that this project will improve the forest's resilience to insects, disease, and climate change, yet the opposite seems the case: a tree is not a forest. On its own a tree cannot establish a consistent local climate. It is at the mercy of the wind and weather. But together, many trees create an ecosystem that moderates extremes of heat and cold, stores a great deal of water, and generates a great deal of humidity -- to get to this point the community of trees must remain intact, no matter what. Every tree is valuable -- in part by virtue of the "smart" ecology of communication beneath the soil. (Peter Wohleben, Hidden Life of Forests)

Beauty is inherent to our realizing a healthy, resilient forest: have you a landscape architect to design and oversee the cut and burn? Fire, in effect alarms: when you burn the slash, toxins and chemicals will be released, their embers carried by the wind to the watershed. Particulates will be inhaled by our residents, wildlife and human -- to be the detriment of health of all. Such burning and clearing when monsoons happen erodes the soil -- so that said "regeneration" can not occur, perhaps ever again.