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Comments:

When I moved to Santa Fe, I was under the impression that the air quality here was superior because of so little industry, and I touted that fact to my many visitors. In the last few years, however, I started using the Apple Weather App that has an air quality index, and would enter the places I traveled to like D.C., L.A., San Diego, Oakland, Madison, and was startled to consistently find that Santa Fe, on any given day, not only didn't have the best air quality but, usually, had the worst of the locals I'd been to. This finding really blew my mind because I was such a firm believer in the exact opposite. Now, with the US Forest Service exempt from needing to do an environmental impact report for this project, you can be certain that with their massive plan of cutting, some say up to 90% of existing trees, in the project areas, and then doing widespread prescribed burns of the debris using toxic accelerants like diesel and gas and potassium permanganate, our air quality here is really going to deteriorate even further and seriously impact for the worse the health of vulnerable Santa Feans; additionally, Santa Fe is a city with a burgeoning demographic of senior citizens, who on average are more prone to respiratory maladies. Further, because of our dependence on tourism, this precarious endeavor, in all likelihood, will seriously hurt our economy as well. For a health-nut, who loves to hike, the undertaking of this project by the Forest Service is a real bummer and could cause a major deterioration of the overall quality of life here in Santa Fe. I hope the Forest Service will reconsider this project and do a thorough environmental impact report assessing the health risks posed by the deterioration of our air from this project, and if they still find it necessary to still do thinning, do it in such a way that the large debris can be hauled out and the smaller either mulched or composted, forgoing any need for deleterious burning.