

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 8/7/2019 12:00:00 AM

First name: Kathleen

Last name: Prlich

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

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

Ms. Bergemann and Mr. Melonas,

As a resident of Santa Fe, I am deeply concerned about the fact that there is no ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT concerning the above project, let alone a short public comment period. More time and public input has been allowed to various other projects such as the Railyard. WHY such a rush to shut out the public when we are supposed to be a democracy?

Please extend the comment period to 90 days for a more democratic process especially since we are considering 50,000 acres.

The Forest Service is arguing that the entire forest needs to be thinned and burned, but, the research of Dr. Chad Hansen and Dr. Jack Cohen shows that the most effective mitigation of damaged property in the event of wildfire is to directly treat around homes and structures. This current science must be considered carefully.

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

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.

SANTA FE HAD AT ONE TIME SOME OF THE CLEANEST AIR IN THE COUNTRY. AERIAL IGNITIONS WITH CHEMICALS ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTING THAT AIR, AS WELL AS THINNING TREES WHICH OF COURSE PRODUCE OXYGENATION. MANY PEOPLE LIVE HERE SPECIFICALLY DUE TO HEALTH ISSUES ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY SMOKE.

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 am also concerned about opening roads (either lightly loaded or inventoried roadless areas) and increasing the exposure of our 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.

Lastly, clean air, smoke free is one of the most basic elements needed for health. As a registered nurse I see the effects of smoke on people gasping for air. WE NEED AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT on this before proceeding.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.