

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

First name: Greg

Last name: Walke

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Re: Scoping_ Comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Dear Mr. Melonas,

As a resident of Santa Fe, I am very concerned about this project and wish to add my voice to those asking you reconsider the approach the Forest Service has embarked upon. I oppose the current plan as it stands; it leaves too many questions unanswered.

The following are some of my concerns, though by no means all of them:

[bull] There's been no Environmental Impact Statement as required by law for a project of this size.

[bull] Public health: exposure to small particulate matter in smoke, and the cumulative effects of exposure of people and wildlife to toxic fire accelerants.

[bull] Economy: Declining air quality will be detrimental to our local economy, outdoor recreation, tourism and the cultural landscape.

[bull] Science has developed over the past fifty years: there are significant questions about the long-term effects of cutting and burning on the scale proposed.

[bull] New or improved roads should not be permitted in what should be considered a Wilderness Area.

[bull] The proposed work in the current plan will have harmful effects on our water supplies, will degrade wildlife habitat, and create countless unintended consequences.

[bull] The effects of such short-sighted thinking on climate change. The devastating loss of carbon-sequestering plant species, the loss of cooling plant cover, the loss of natural barriers to drying winds and pests, and the loss of species habitat are all contrary to the direction we need to be going to deal with the current global climate trends.

The consequences of the current plan will be enormous and difficult for those of us who will have to live with them. Please extend the too-short comment period, incorporate some current scientific points of view, and significantly revise this plan.