

Date submitted (Mountain Standard Time): 7/16/2019 5:14:50 PM

First name: Julie

Last name: Dean

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Mr. James Melonas Forest Supervisor?Santa Fe National Forest

11 Forest Drive

Santa Fe, NM 87508

RE: Scoping comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project Mr. Melonas,

I have just finished reading the article regarding this project that appeared in the New Mexican newspaper.

There is so much at stake, and the validity of the process is under question. Please don't move forward without including an Environmental Impact Statement in this project.

To bring roads into this pristine land will change the future of the forest, and not for the better. Consider alternative ways to work with mountain villages and responses to wildfires. Part of living in the forest is understanding how to be wise in protecting your home from a fire.

Let's not open our forests to vehicles that could offer misuse or put fire risk on the land. The science proves that a forest left to nature is a healthier forest.

The Forest Service is arguing that the entire forest needs to be thinned and burned, but the research the research of Dr. Chad Hansen and Dr. Jack Cohen shows that the most effective mitigation is to treat directly 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 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.

I would also like you to consider the health of the wildlife and the public when using the aerial ignitions using potassium permanganate, ethylene glycol and diesel fuel and how these are currently affecting our health and well being, not to mention 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 their health affects but the 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; 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.

?Sincerely,

Julie Dean