



Office of the Governor
Pueblo of Tesuque
Route 42 Box 360-T
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87506

July 3, 2019

James Melonas
Forest Supervisor
Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project
11 forest Lane Santa Fe, NM 87508

Greetings Mr. Melonas,

The Pueblo of Tesuque has received this notice on request for comments on this project and we now provide our comments and concerns. As the Forest Service is a federal entity there should be a direct government-to-government consultation with the tribes separately on any project proposed, regardless of the type of project as they involve our Traditional Cultural Properties.

As you well know the pueblos have identified the Sangre De Cristo's and surrounding Mountains as sacred and our ancestral homelands since time immemorial.

This project as noted in the proposal using proactive approaches to protect the forest is a positive measure in assuring our mountains are maintained for years to come.

The location of this project is within our traditional Cultural Properties and with the scope of work projected we note that the clear cutting will provide a healthier forest for gathering products we utilize. However, while access to the mountains are made for recreational purposes, the idea of campers leaving fires smoldering causes concerns that fire will destroy what is sought to be protected.

We recommend utilizing registration cards for all hikers and campers with specific destinations being made a priority much like areas where individuals use prepared camping locations. A self-registration form does not suffice in this instance, registering with a fee would provide information as to who and where they are proposing to camp in the wilderness areas, noting that tribal land is posted and restricted.

To date we have people camping on roadsides within the Pacheco canyon and leaving trash and fires smoldering with no means of tracking who they are. They trespass on tribal land leaving rubbish, human waste without burying and cutting fences with no regard for others and our land.

We are concerned that campers will destroy cultural sites as has been done in the past when clear cutting makes access easier.

We do not favor new trails, and new mountain biking trails as people do not stay on them and we have found trash in hard to access locations. Proposing new trails will impact our religion and areas in which we still make pilgrimages to.

Without clearly pinpointing TCP's we wish that this will project treat the entire location as such with limited access. The pueblo has been asked numerous times to disclose our TCP's for publishing and we have refused. Publishing these locations only creates potential destruction and desecration and we respectfully ask that we no longer be requested to provide any ethnographic information.

Those locations that are not deemed as campsites where people have chosen to stay should be restricted. Should you walk the Pacheco Canyon access road and the 102-forest road from the ski basin down you will find numerous sites made into camping locations along trails and paths intended for walking. Campsites along stream locations used for irrigation have trash in them, again human waste is a concern. All locations should have clear signage posted noting camping or restricting campers.

We respect the forest and demand others have the same for the eco-system as it is a source of drinking water, forest products for traditional uses and recreation for all.

This resiliency project should note these concerns along with the project scope as it directly affects us all.

Should you wish to discuss our concerns please feel free to contact us.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Milton Herrera", written in a cursive style.

Milton Herrera
Governor

Cc; CPD office