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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: Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Mr. Melonas,

As a resident of Earth and a citizen of the USA, I am deeply concerned about the enormous size of this project, the short comment period allowed to the public, and the repeated response by the Forest Service employees that there will be no Environmental Impact Statement regarding its effects on the forest. Surely a project of this scope and potential consequence deserves the deep level of care a EIP signifies.

I would like to know why there is such a rush to push this permanent cutting and burning of our forests? Please extend the comment period to 90 days for a more democratic process.

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 show that the most effective way to minimize property damage in the event of wildfire is to directly treat around homes and structures. This current science must be considered carefully and acted upon accordingly.

Please allow the climate scientists with experience in forestry, such as Dr. Dominick Della Salla, PhD, to weigh in. During this critical time of massive species, habitat, and plant loss in the local Santa Fe area as well as throughout the world, surely we should consult the experts before settling on the final draft of this plan.  
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I believe the last thing we need is to cut our carbon sequestering plants. They provide Santa Fe its only buffer against the extreme weather that climate breakdown & instability will bring. 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.

Please, also 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 (the equally impacted wildlife, however, 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. This degrades wildlife habitat, helps spread invasive species, and allows arsonist and wildlife poachers free access. Many roads in the forest should be completely rewilded, not improved for access.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my concerns.?

Sincerely,  
Yi Pang