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Organization:

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Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Jun 25, 2019

Forest Supervisor James Melonas

Dear Forest Supervisor Melonas,

I take issue with several of the Forest Service's proposals:

1. An EA is not the correct approach for a project of this magnitude and complexity that will effect so many vulnerable areas and the Mexican Spotted Owls. Because this project will have significant, widespread impacts to many locations a thorough, site-specific analysis of all environmental impacts in an Environmental Impact Statement is inarguably NECESSARY.
2. The Forest Service must analyze a full range of alternatives to the agency's proposal, including the Santa Fe Conservation Alternative submitted by WildEarth Guardians and others.
3. The Forest Service must identify and implement the minimum road system on a landscape scale and employ a thoughtful, strategic approach to assuring public access while reducing negative impacts from forest roads to water quality and aquatic habitats, and improving watersheds and forest resiliency by returning expensive, deteriorating, and seldom-used forest roads to the wild.
4. The Forest Service **MUST** consider the **BEST** available science. Your organization doesn't get to cherry-pick the science and data to support its proposal while ignoring contrary, credible views and data. Function and act within reality, not within your cushy day dreams.
5. Climate change intensifies the adverse impacts associated with tree thinning, prescribed burning, and roads. The Forest Service must consider the risks of increased disturbance when analyzing the proposed project, as part of the affected environment, and as part of the agency's hard look at impacts.
6. The Forest Service must analyze the cumulative impacts of the proposed project with all other past, present and foreseeable future projects within the broader landscape, including the Hyde Park and Pacheco Canyon projects, livestock grazing, and motorized use.

Sincerely,

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