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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Jun 25, 2019

Forest Supervisor James Melonas

Dear Forest Supervisor Melonas,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Scoping Document for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project. Though I appreciate the Forest Service soliciting public comment on this project, I have a number of concerns about the Forest Service's proposal:

1. An EA is inappropriate for a project of this scale and complexity which affects many threatened and sensitive species, old growth forests, roadless areas and streams and riparian areas. Because this project will have a significant impact on these and other resources, a thorough, site-specific analysis of the full environmental impact is required. This must be done through an Environmental Impact Statement.
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 ensuring public access, while reducing the negative impact on forest roads, 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. The agency cannot cherry-pick the science and data to support its proposal while ignoring contrary, credible views and data.
5. Climate change intensifies the adverse effects associated with tree thinning, prescribed burning, and roads. When analyzing the proposed project, the Forest Service must consider the risks of increased disturbance as part of the affected environment and of the agency's hard look at the overall impact.
6. The Forest Service must analyze the cumulative effects of the proposed project in the context of 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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