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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

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I have lived on and off in the area Canada de los Alamos for over 30 years, and I am horrified to hear that the Forest Service intends to go into that area with its drastic thinning, an area so beloved by so many who live in, hike in and enjoy the natural untouched beauty of the area.

I would absolutely urge a comprehensive Environmental Impact Study be required for such a large project and one with such significant impacts on so many, to determine the effects on the human environment, on roadless areas and on the wildlife. This analysis must be site-specific in order to be meaningful. I am also concerned about the effects on the soil, as you are talking of removing huge amounts of organic matter in taking out those trees that took hundreds of years to grow, and who knows if the land would ever fully recover. I have read a great deal about this, and what you are talking about begins a process called "desertification". I have gone to other areas that have been treated by FS and have seen with my own eyes the degradation to the area, things are not growing back, and areas that were once beautiful look devastated. I also know that FS is not doing the required monitoring after such projects that are in fact required by your their guidelines. I know this because they they admitted it to a group of us.

Furthermore I just read a recently released study on climate change, identifying the one most significant thing we can do to curb climate change to be PLANTING trees, stating we could completely turn things around faster this way than any other. So it makes no sense when you look at the big picture, for the FS to be cutting down such significant numbers of trees, especially at this time. It is so short sighted, and I believe completely the wrong approach. I encourage you to read excerpts from a recent study by Tom Crowther, a professor at the Swiss university ETH Zürich, that indicates our best path to stem off climate change is planting trees, and an end to deforestation, attached below.

The FS is exacerbating the greatest problem of our time, and at the same time destroying the natural beauty of our region. This is public land, and it is required by law that the FS listen to the people, and everyone I know opposes this project. At the very least an EIS MUST be required.

Respectfully,

Lyra Barron

Resident of the forests around Santa Fe for 37 years