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First name: Geneviève

Last name: Okuma

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: Scoping comments for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Mr. Melonas,

Thank you for taking the time to read my concerns about the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project.

I am deeply concerned to hear the Forest Service will not conduct an Environmental Impact Statement regarding its impact on the forest and the health and well-being of our community and the crumbling climate. I'm also distressed the commenting period was so short for the public to fully research and comprehend a plan of this scale which impacts the city we love for its art and natural beauty.

Please, consider extending the comment period to 90 days as is appropriate for a project of this scale.

The research of Dr. Chad Hansen and Dr. Jack Cohen demonstrates the most effective mitigation of damaged property in the event of wildfire is to directly treat around homes and structures. I'm hopeful the Forest Service might instead consider a program which goes towards addressing fireproofing homes rather than treating the woods as though they are the problem. Climate scientists with experience in forestry, such as Dr. Dominick Della Salla, PhD, would be valuable voices to add to the integrity of how the Forest Service seeks to protect its citizens.

Our climate crisis indicates we cannot afford to cut our carbon sequestering plants. We 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.

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 which can degrade wildlife habitat, spread invasive species, and allow arsonist and wildlife poachers free access.

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

Sincerely,

Geneviève Okuma