

From: [REDACTED]
To: [FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office](#)
Subject: [External Email]Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project, Objections
Date: Friday, May 6, 2022 11:58:50 AM
Attachments: [Santa Fe Mountains Project Oct 27 2021.docx](#)
[sr-cq-cerro-grande-investigation-report-may-2000.pdf](#)
[Buchanan Prescribed fire, 1993.pdf](#)

[External Email]

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May 6, 2022

Re: Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project, Comments/Objections,
Addendum to my first email of May 6, 2022 at, see below.

To: Regional Forester
Espanola Ranger District
333 Broadway Blvd SE , Albuquerque, NM, 87102
Email: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov

From: Patricia L. Mann RN, MSN
[REDACTED]

Dear Regional Forester, USFS,

IMPORTANT: Addendum to my comments/objections to Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project.

Regarding my reference in my first email of May 6, 2022 at 9:32am MDT (see below) to the prescribed burn in the Jemez Mountains with aerial drops of accelerants, (i.e,"ping pong balls") causing death to firefighters, I want to update and document more facts about that burn. This prescribed burn caused the death of one of the firefighters, Frankie Toledo, a tribal member of Jemez Pueblo. It occurred during the Buchanan Prescribed burn on April 22,1993. Multiple serious violations were found by OSHA in the attached report. See especially "The Sequence of Events, Buchanan Prescribed Burn, April 22,1993, Division C" at the end of the attached report showing the dangerous conditions caused by both hand ignitions and aerial drips of ping pong balls via helicopter which put at least 16 firefighters into dangerous conditions, causing many to deploy their shelters with the fire burning over them.

Please see attachment to email for the report on the Buchanan Prescribed burn.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: [REDACTED]
To: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov <objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 6, 2022, 09:32:09 AM MDT
Subject: Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project, Objections

May 6, 2022

Re: Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project, Comments/Objections

To: Regional Forester
Espanola Ranger District
333 Broadway Blvd SE , Albuquerque, NM, 87102
Email: objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov

From: Patricia L. Mann RN, MSN
[REDACTED]

Dear Regional Forester, USFS,

It is unthinkable that The US Forest Service would plan to undertake such a huge project and conclude that no significant impacts were found in your Environmental Assessment(EA). A full and complete Environmental Impact Study must be done!

Recently, on April 6, 2022, when winds were gusty and it was inappropriate to begin a prescribed burn, the USFS allowed the Las Dispensas Prescribed burn near Las Vegas, New Mexico to begin. At 4:30 that afternoon it was declared a wildfire, the Hermit's Peak fire.

As of today, the Hermit's Peak fire is over 165,000 acres as it joined with another small fire, the Calf Canyon Fire during high winds. It has now burned entire communities, small towns, hundreds of homes and generational ranches. It has already killed hundreds of livestock including horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, chickens and many others, as well as many family pets, and of course our wildlife. It is now threatening the cities of Las Vegas and Mora.

This fire is also affecting the health and safety of all the firefighters, sheriffs and others who are helping to manage this fire and all the evacuations. It is costing millions of dollars, likely billions of dollars by the time it is over, to manage. This is Federal money coming from taxpayers.

Thousands and thousands of people have now had to evacuate their homes during a Covid-19 pandemic. There are not enough places for them to go to escape the fire and smoke. Many will not have homes or livelihoods to go back to.

Smoke is severely affecting the health of people and animals causing life threatening illness for some people, including those at high risk.

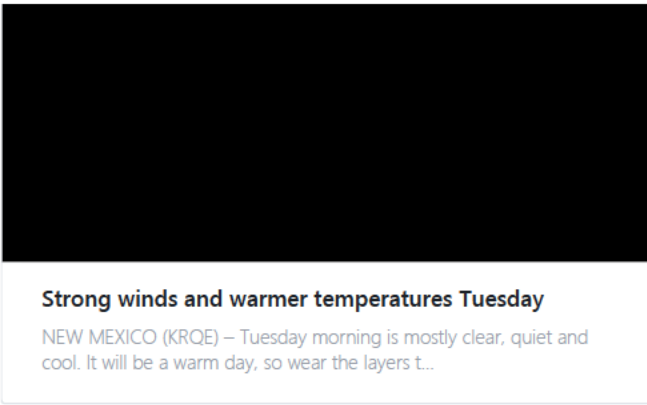
Winds have been in red flag warnings most of the time since the wildfire began and more high winds are expected over Mother's Day weekend and into the following week. We are in extreme drought and Spring in New Mexico is always and predictably, very windy.

On April 5, KRQE News from Albuquerque showed the extreme fire danger we were in due to very high winds. Although the winds were expected to be less the following day, Wednesday, April 6, the weather forecast stated that it would still be windy on Wednesday. The US Forest Service had announced they might begin the Las Dispensas prescribed burn on Wednesday, April 6th. After seeing the weather forecast (see link below) I knew Wednesday would not be an appropriate day to start this burn. On Wednesday morning, I woke up to wind at my home in [REDACTED]. We had very low relative humidity. It was not a good day for any prescribed burn to be conducted and the Santa Fe National Forest made a terrible decision to go ahead with the Las Dispensas prescribed burn during these conditions.

KRQE NEWS for April 5, 2022

[Strong winds and warmer temperatures Tuesday](#)

[REDACTED]



KRQE NEWS/Weather for April 6, 2022
[Winds finally relax heading into the end of the week](#)



Prescribed burns are dangerous and are not being conducted in a safe manner. On the very next day, April 7th, BLM started a prescribed burn near Roswell, the "Overflow Prescribed Burn" which in two hours time was declared a wildfire.

It is unthinkable that the US Forest Service would continue on with the current plan delineated in your Environmental Assessment of the Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project which includes prescribed burning of 38,000 acres of forest, given that your Las Dispensas prescribed burn has gone completely out of control with no containment in sight.

The US Forest Service is mismanaging our forests. This is a serious breach of your responsibility to all citizens who pay your salaries as well as a breach of your responsibility to properly manage our forests and Public Lands.

I object to the Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project as it is currently proposed in your new Environmental Assessment for the following reasons:

1. Your plan includes numerous prescribed burns, including burns of thousands of acres which can go out of control and cause catastrophic and dangerous wildfires such as the Hermit's Peak Fire and Overflow wildfire of April, 2022 as well as the 2000 Cerro Grande Fire in the Jemez.

Documentation

Cerro Grande Fire: In 2000, on May 4th, a prescribed burn begun by fire personnel at Bandelier National Monument that escaped containment lines in the Jemez Mountains became the Cerro Grande Fire, burning 280 homes and burning parts of Los Alamos Lab!

Some history: On May 10, 2000, a fire that began as a prescribed fire in Bandelier National Monument on May 4th, burned into Los Alamos, New Mexico. In its most extreme state on May 10, the Cerro Grande Prescribed Fire was carried by very high winds, with embers blowing a mile or more across the fire lines to the north, south, and east, entering Los Alamos Canyon towards Los Alamos, New Mexico. The towns of Los Alamos and White Rock were in the fire's path and more than 18,000 residents were evacuated.

By the end of the day on May 10, the fire had burned 18,000 acres, destroyed 235 homes, and damaged many other structures. The fire also spread towards the Los Alamos National Laboratory, and although fires spotted onto the facility's lands, all major structures were secured and no releases of radiation occurred.

(Until now with the Hermit's Peak Fire), the Cerro Grande Fire was the largest, most destructive wildfire that New Mexico has ever known. The fire swept across 47,000 forested acres in Bandelier National Monument, the Santa Fe National Forest, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos County, and the Santa Clara and San Ildefonso Indian Reservations, causing about \$1 billion in property damage. Over 280 homes were destroyed or damaged and 40 Laboratory structures burned.

Source: <https://wildfiretoday.com/2010/05/10/cerro-grande-fire-10-years-ago-today/>

Hermit's Peak Fire, April 6, 2022, USFS Prescribed burn out of control, as discussed above

Overflow Fire, April 7, 2022, BLM Prescribed burn out of control, as discussed above

Jemez Mountains Prescribed Burn: In addition, in the past a US Forest Service Prescribed burn being conducted in the Jemez Mountains has even caused the death of some of the men hired to assist with the prescribed burn! When accelerants being used to start the burn were aurally dropped too close to their location on the ground, they became trapped in the resulting fire and died.

2. Prescribed burns using accelerants also introduce toxic chemicals into the environment, including the air from the resulting smoke which we breathe, into the soil and vegetation, into animal habitats and potentially into our watersheds.
3. Your plan includes toxic herbicides which are environmentally hazardous to people, wildlife, our watersheds and the environment as a whole.
4. Your plan includes extreme cutting and thinning of trees in our forests using heavy equipment and machinery and new roads build which will impact our forest environment.
5. Your plan will impact all wildlife and will still cause the loss of many, including endangered species.
6. Your plan will cause excessive smoke which is a serious health hazard for all people, especially those with medical conditions that place them at high risk.

Conclusion

A full Environmental Impact Study must be done. Many of us, including myself, have demanded this in our previous comments and objections. You have ignored our

requests for a full Environmental Impact Study (EIS) and have now stated in your Environmental Assessment (EA) there is no significant impact found for your proposed Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project.

In lieu of repeating all of my previous objections in my response above, please see attachment to this email for my letter stating comments/objections to this project dated October 27, 2021.

See also attachment to email of the Cerro Grande fire Investigation Report from May 18, 2000 to better understand the dangers posed by prescribed burns.

Thank you,
Patricia L. Mann RN, MSN

[REDACTED]

- The Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

October 27,2021

From:

Patricia Mann RN, MSN

[REDACTED]

Re: My Comments on The Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency
Project

As a native New Mexican, Health Care Professional and resident of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED], I am deeply concerned about the enormous size of the proposed Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project and that there has been no Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding its effects on our beloved forest or the health of people, our forests, wildlife and the quality of our soil, air and water.

I demand there be an Environmental Impact Statement. It is unthinkable that a project of this magnitude would not have a full EIS.

I am concerned about the ecological impacts on our forest as the plan includes major thinning and burning on thousands of acres of forest land, the use of heavy equipment and the creation of new roads (even if "temporary") into forest areas as well as the use of herbicides for invasive

plant species.

I would also like you to study the health impacts on our air quality, soil quality and water quality and the impact on the environment as a whole as well as on our wildlife and people when doing prescribed burns. Toxic smoke is emitted from these burns and causes harm to all wildlife and all people, not just those who are “smoke sensitive” or who have underlying conditions such as COPD, Asthma, Chemical Sensitivities, Heart Disease, etc.

It is also important to study the impact of ignitions using accelerants, whether doing hand ignitions and/or creating containment lines using diesel fuel or doing aerial ignitions containing potassium permanganate, ethylene glycol or other toxic chemicals.

A thorough study should be conducted as to how these toxic chemicals

- being released into the environment are currently affecting our health and well-being. As I write these comments today, there is a prescribed burn going on in the Santa Fe Watershed that has been started using toxic chemical accelerants. This is our watershed. These chemicals will get into our air, soil and water. The smoke from prescribed burns and these harmful chemicals also impact the economy, tourism and reputation of Santa Fe as one of the cleanest air cities in the country.

Many citizens of Santa Fe are complaining about prescribed fires and the negative health effects (whereas the equally impacted wildlife cannot). I personally am severely affected as are many people I know by the smoke and the toxic chemical accelerants that are in the air when prescribed burns are being conducted.

These burns are becoming larger and larger and more frequent. Smoke from burns from other US Forest Service areas of New Mexico are reaching Santa Fe.

People with Chemical Sensitivities, Asthma, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Emphysema, Pulmonary Fibrosis, Heart disease and other serious health and respiratory disorders are being made extremely ill from all the smoke. Our children and the elderly are especially affected. Santa Fe has a large population of elderly and retired people. It appears the US Forest Service does not consider smoke from the prescribed burns to be a public health hazard. It is time to wake up to this fact. This smoke is literally life threatening for many people.

The proposal to use herbicides in the Santa Fe National Forest is also a public health threat. Herbicides are toxic chemicals that can get into the air and pollute land and water. An EIS should also examine the adverse health impacts of herbicides on the human environment, including impacts on vulnerable populations. Invasive plants can be manually removed thus avoiding introducing toxic chemical herbicides into our environment.

Recently, in August, 2021, (August 9-12) the herbicide "Rodeo" containing the toxic chemical glyphosate, was sprayed on invasive plants, the Oxeye Daisy, on the East Fork trail in the Jemez Mountains. The trail was left open during the spraying and any hikers as well as the pesticide applicators would have been exposed to this toxic chemical. These herbicides can also persist in the environment.

- Glyphosate has been linked to many forms of cancer and class action suits are currently ongoing on behalf of those who have been chemically injured by exposure to glyphosate including applicators of glyphosate-containing herbicides as well as others who have been exposed to glyphosate and now have terminal cancers.

Additionally, these herbicides are severely impacting our wildlife. Every year the Wildlife Center in Espanola treats birds, including our beloved

raptors, for herbicide poisoning. Many cannot be saved. These herbicides go right up the food chain and are impacting not only people but all of our wildlife including our beneficial pollinators such as bees, butterflies and moths.

Please take into consideration all the impacts of this Santa Fe Mountains Resiliency Project. Please consider the health of the people and animals.

Please provide an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Patricia Mann RN, MSN

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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