
From: Matt Wiebe [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, December 14, 2022 10:48 AM
To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: [External Email]Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project #55088

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USDA Forest Service, Santa Fe National Forest,

I have not previously commented in this project, however I would like to object based on "new information" as spelled out here, "specific written comments regarding the proposed project, unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities."

The "new information" arises at how the USDA Forest Service's "controlled burn" in the Hermits Peak area and the "controlled burn" in Calf Canyon grew into the largest wildfire in New Mexico history under the USDA Forest Service management. As spelled out in the USDA Forest Services review of the event, "Gallinas-Las Dispensas Prescribed Fire Declared Wildfire Review."

According to this report, "The Gallinas Watershed Prescribed Fire Plan was prepared in 2019. The prescribed fire plan and complexity analysis was approved on January 10, 2020 by the Agency Administrator.

The prescribed fire plan and complexity analysis was reviewed and approved again on October 22, 2021. This plan encompasses many prescribed fire units tied to the 2006 Gallinas EA. "

On p. 28 the findings mostly point out that Forest Service's ability to plan the controlled burns was lacking. Phrases like "Fuel models were not adequately represented", "There was an underestimation of fire potential leading up to the prescribed fire", "No spatial analysis of fire behavior seems to have been used" "Additional anecdotal information shared from prescribed fire organization personnel . .

suggests that fuel model 12 would have better captured the resulting debris from hand line prep (Appendix F) than the original fuel model 11 used." Together these argue that the Forest Service in unable to manage a controlled burn unless the lessons of this wildfire disaster are learned and policy changed.

As it is only a few months since the Hermits Peak. Calf Canyon fire has been controlled, the planned Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project #55088 should be canceled until the trauma of the previous Hermits Peak fire subsides. And until a time the Forest Service can show it has learned from its mistakes. I lived through the Cerro Grande Fire of 2000, another disaster caused by the Forest Service controlled burn.

The control burns in Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon were based on Forest Service science and best practice and yet the Forest Service failed at its mission as it has repeatedly done in New Mexico.

Matt Wiebe
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