

June 10, 2023

Douglas Ruppel, District Ranger
c/o Mindi Lehew, Environmental Coordinator
Coronado National Forest
1192 W. Saddlevue Rd.
Douglas AZ 85607

Re: Peloncillo FireScape Project

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on this project.

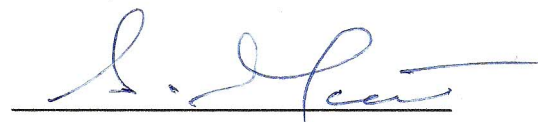
We are ranchers with an allotment that is included in the project area. We are pleased with the project's broader approach to reduce fuel accumulation and treat vegetation composition.

We hope that the project will not emphasize the role of fire to achieve these ends as was done in the 1990's. We think that mechanical treatment along with herbicide application is a better policy. Living and operating in the project area we witnessed too many large fires, both prescribed and naturally ignited. The results were unimpressive and often damaging to the resource.

There was mastication on one small area on our allotment during this period but it did not target mesquite or manzanita. These two species should be targeted in the Black Point Planning Unit and should be treated mechanically with herbicide follow-up.

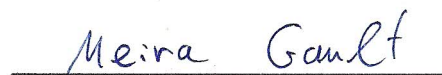
Please keep us informed as the EA process progresses

Sincerely,



Stephen Gault

Midbar Ranch – Clanton/Cloverdale Allotment



Meira Gault