

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HIDALGO COUNTY

COMMISSIONERS

KELLY PETERSON
ART MALOTT
JOEL EDWARDS



COUNTY MANAGER

TISHA GREEN

June 12, 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

On behalf of Hidalgo County, we hereby submit our comments regarding this project. The Hidalgo County Commission was very involved in your previous Peloncillo Fire Management Plan (PFMP) in the 1990's. We submitted our own Hidalgo County Alternative which you included in a reduced format in the final EA.

Our main concern then was the size of the prescribed burns and your "let burn" policy regarding naturally ignited fires which burned many acres in our county unnecessarily. We also wanted you to involve our local fire fighters more than you did.

We welcome the new project that includes other treatments to reduce fuel accumulations and treat vegetation composition. We hope you will use these other treatments, e.g. mechanical mastication and herbicide application instead of large fires. We ask again that you involve our local fire fighters in this project. Please keep us informed and involved about the progress of this EA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tisha Green".

Tisha Green
County Manager