NEPA ES Notes Oct 7, 2024 for comment online form.

1. I see a need for immediate TEMPORARY repair of the Forest Road 263. The road is literally decomposing and becoming washed out in multiple locations inside the Santa FE USFS boundary. Our property in Calf Canyon is difficult to get to due to a severely damaged bridge #3 in the main canyon. Also the stone bridge at Baker Flat rest area is in danger and needs structural repairs to be completed in order for large capacity tonnage road construction to happen. The road surface itself is full of pot holes and damaged paving. Repaving the entire 263 will serve to limit road silt and dirt washing and polluting the Gallinas River downstream.
2. In the upper Gallinas watershed, I see a major need to install small scale erosion control measures in USFS lands. Especially upstream of privately owned homes and ranches. High water and flash flooding in Calf Creek has caused driveway damage and filled in drain culverts, large and small. Upstream erosion and runoff control slowing devices can lessen the speed and volume of runoff in the private properties and USFS lands.
3. I also see the need for reseeding and reforestation in the areas above Calf Canyon where a mosaic of burn damage has occurred. Some areas are completely denuded, some are partially burned.
4. Removal of dead trees which may fall and become log jams downstream is also needed. I support the thinning of forest cover similar to the efforts done in the past 15 years around Calf Canyon and other areas of the Gallinas. However, careful monitoring of prescribed burns will need to be a major need.
5. Owning a private property in the upper Gallinas watershed has major challenges when roads or locked gates prevent easy access of repair/rebuilding contractors. Roofing, electricians, plumbing, remodeling, and site work is very difficult to achieve due to the 22 miles over rural roads. And made worse by bridge and 263 road damage. Loss of use of private properties during the past 3 summer seasons is pronounced and just plain not fair to owners.
6. The USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station states that the trend toward conifer regeneration in US western forests will be challenged by climate change over the next few decades.

I agree with this overall view of the need to dramatically increase production of seedling conifers and get them planted as soon as possible in the uplands of the HPCC severe and moderately burned areas.

I hope the challenge of planting new conifers will be met by:

* Beginning a new CCC version of workers who may have to be imported in order to achieve a workforce to take on this work.
* Expanding the John Harrington Forest Research Center and having the USFS annually financially support it’s dramatic expansion to produce 5 million and more seedlings per year for reforestation.
* Planting in colonies stretched out along contour lines to limit the very large job of planting trees everywhere. The colonies can be managed to survive and expand over decades. This technique saves time, labor, and cost due to its’ parceling out of seedling trees in diverse species colonies, and avoiding planting mass quantities of risky seedlings throughout a burned area.