

In regard to Hermit's Peak and Calf Canyon Burned Area Recovery NEPA project
HPCC Recovery Project
Supervisor's Office
11 Forest Lane
Santa Fe, NM 87508 Fax 505-438-5390, Phone 505-438-5300
October 5, 2024

I am writing to provide comments as suggested.

While many projects are being reviewed, I suggest starting with the basics for the road #263. Without the repair and rebuilding of the road and bridges, work will be harder to do for the Gallinas River threatening water supply for Las Vegas.

If the road is not taken care of equipment can't be brought in to repair the road or be able to do work to protect the Gallinas River and water supply for Las Vegas.

- 1) The old stone bridge built in 1930/1940's must be reinforced and made strong and secure to carry equipment across.
- 2) There is another bridge that has a weight limit on it that must be repaired to be used safely. Large equipment will be needed to repair the roads in order to make the Gallinas River safe and usable. So, this bridge needs to be able to hold large equipment.
- 3) The 'low end place' (i.e. no bridge at all), must be repaired so home owners can safely use this to get to their home for repair and maintenance, and again for equipment to be driven up the canyon for repair of roads and to build protection from floods for the river. A temporary bridge would be fine or alternative structures for bridge that can be used. It is time to think outside the box and find cheaper but viable solutions. There is a bridge that was built from the stones/boulders that has been working fine for their area.

Without the safe secure road, the Gallinas watershed is not protected, and it is in danger of not being a water resource for Las Vegas.

Next decide what needs to be done for the Gallinas River to protect it. This might include starting high in the mountains tributaries, to create structures to have water flow channeled, which reduces the risk of flooding, or just cleaning out the river to help it flow more easily and prevent flooding. All along the river, it should be evaluated. Does more of the stream need to be cleaned from debris? Does the road need to be paved or moved slightly to protect the stream?

Finally, recreational use of the forest can't be considered until the road is not a risk for homeowners and public to use and the river is more secure for the water source for Las Vegas. After these 2 things are done then the State and Federal Programs can look at recreational uses for the Forest.

Harla Brewer
10-5-24