

David A. Whisner



March 1, 2025

Responsible Official and Reviewing Officer, Regional Forester Michiko Martin
333 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Dear Regional Forester Martin:

I have been a property owner in the Village of Oak Creek for 31 years and a permanent resident for 22 years. One of the principal reasons we chose to build our forever home in the Village of Oak Creek was the incomparable viewshed. Wires hung on towers would have an immediate and decidedly deleterious effect on our quality of life not to mention the value of our home--full stop.

But, so as to remain in compliance with your protocol, here are two more issues of concern based on new information not available during the previous comment period which ended January 14, 2022.

- The Final Environmental Assessment lacks an adequate range of alternatives which violates the NEPA. To wit, an underground power line routed alongside Highway 179 between Beaverhead Flat Road and the VOC is feasible and would eliminate wildfire risk and protect scenery. But the Forest Service excluded this route from consideration and did not develop it as an alternative.
- The Forest Service failed to consider information critical to making an informed decision such as its own rating that the VOC and Sedona are at “very high risk” of wildfire.

Thank you for your consideration of these objections.

Sincerely,

David A. Whisner