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Comments: To whom it may concern:

I am currently the Program Coordinator for the Southwest Fire Science Consortium, which covers both Arizona and New Mexico. I have a BS and MS in Forestry with a focus in fire ecology from Northern Arizona University. My job is to ensure current science is being used by land management practitioners and that applicable research needs are addressed by scientists who study wildland fire and land management.

I fully support the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project (SFMLRP) because it is based on current science on southwestern forests and related fire regimes (see attached Yocom 2014). The longer we wait to restore these forests, the greater the risk to human life, infrastructure, and water supply. In 2019, the Museum Fire burned in the Flagstaff Watershed. Although the fire scar itself is relatively small, the associated postfire flooding has been severe, resulting in entire neighborhoods downstream being overwhelmed. During monsoon season, residents were unable to leave their homes for fear of flash flooding while they are out. It doesn't take a large wildfire to result in very negative consequences. I would hate to see this repeated in the Santa Fe area.

Smoke is inevitable in fire prone environments such as the pinyon-juniper, ponderosa pine, and dry mixed conifer forests that surround Santa Fe. For the first time, a recent case study by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) quantifies emission differences between wildfire and prescribed fire (see attached US EPA). Prescribed fire results in lower amounts of damaging PM2.5 emissions, which is primarily what negatively impacts human health. This project will not only improve forest health, but it will likely result in lesser negative effects on human health than if we wait for the inevitable wildfire.

Again, I support the SFMLRP and would like to see efforts on the ground begin as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Barb Satink Wolfson