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Comments: The San Joaquín del Río de Chama Land Grant offers the following comments/objections for the Encino Vista Landscape Restoration Project Environmental Assessment. The following are areas that we believe need to be prioritized in the implementation of the project. These include:

Maintain communication with local communities, especially land grants, throughout project implementation
- discuss opportunities for rough cut timber, finished timber, vigas, latillas, firewood, and biomass with land grants and other local communities
- work with land grants and other local communities to help identify culturally significant and important flora and fauna (used for remedios) and prirotize their preservation through all project related actions (timber, fire, etc.)

Regarding timber action (both commercial and pre-commercial) and all thinning projects, the SFNF should identify fuelwood opportunities for the benefit of local communities
- leave 10% of all product from pre-commercial and commercial thinning for the local communities, especially land grants, to harvest
- contractors should water the road to prevent dust
- culturally significant flora and fauna used for remedios need to be identified and protected in all timber action by contractors

Regarding watersheds, work with local communities to identify watersheds that should be prioritized to help restore flow of rivers, tributaries, including springs (ojitos)
- thinning action should begin near ojitos to restore flow and help improve riparian area
- thinning activity needs to go beyond constraints of wilderness boundaries and continue to the source of the ojitos to ensure or restore their continued flow

Regarding the improvement of 280 miles of road,
- SFNF should work with locals to identify roads that need to be improved and could continually benefit local communities, improving their access to forest products (fuelwood, building products, flora and fauna (remedios, game hunting, etc.)
- create a road maintenance plan that will continue to maintain the 280 miles of improved roads after the project

Regarding prescribed fire
- all treatments with fire needs to be done in the fall (which is seasonally appropriate) when there is with less wind, more moisture and cooler temperatures
- communities need to have more than simple notice of planned prescribed fire actions and need the opportunity for input regarding timing of burns
- SFNF needs to notify local communities of the possibility of nuisance smoke and effects of fires on air quality for health concerns and to maintain the visibility on roads, especially highways

The project should maintain communication with grazing permittees to ensure their access to range is uninterrupted.

Finally, upon completion, the Encino Vista Project should be reassessed to see if objectives have been achieved and areas need to be evaluated to determine of further treatment is needed or if entire project should be extended.