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Comments: The proposed installation, operation, and maintenance of a potable water pipeline from West Road to Camp May raises a number of potential issues which should be addressed through the NEPA process. While an analysis of the impacts of the pipeline infrastructure installation and operation on the local U.S. National Forest environment could be adequately addressed within the scope of an Environmental Assessment, the connected actions and cumulative impacts - make possible by the pipeline - on adjacent lands managed by Los Alamos County and Los Alamos National Laboratory are potentially more significant and controversial. A listing of selected issues with some brief comments follows.

Endangered Species: Potential for pipeline trenching impacts within Jemez Mountain Salamander designated habitat should be assessed by several years of presence / absence monitoring during wet summer periods. A separate Biological Assessment should be prepared by U.S. Fish and Wildlife in addition to analysis within the scope of the Environmental Assessment.

Ground Water: An analysis of potential impacts on ground water resources specifically the aquifer providing water to Los Alamos and LANL and potential to accelerate draw down and exasperate existing contaminant issues.

Wildfire Mitigation: A review of existing wildfire mitigation strategies for Los Alamos and LANL and assessment of the role of the proposed summit reservoir to enhance fire fighting capabilities.