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Organization:

Title:

Comments: SFNF Service,

Greetings from a longtime resident living adjacent to the Santa Fe National Forest. Having lived in the Canada de Los Alamos/La Posta/Apache Ridge area nearly 25 years, I and my family will likely and very sadly have to leave the area due to excess smoke, primarily from prescribed burns and from other fires. In addition, to witnessing the proposed excessively large portions of a thriving forest be aggressively, drastically decimated which will become truly traumatic and unbearable.

It is not the fault of the SFNF Service that homes have been built far out into the hillsides and droughts have worsened. At the same time, it is the responsibility as a 'service' to our citizens for your organization to hear what other valid forestry researchers (you know who they are) have determined to be effective, safer, less aggressive tactics for saving our forests. We humans too are a part of this ecosystem and need to be heard. Based upon science and from the wisdom of our observations as resident caretakers of the beloved land around us, many of us also carry wisdom.

We who make our lives here put in the foothills come from many cultures and walks of life. I myself a teacher am married to a scientist as well as hold advanced degrees, am intelligent enough to know that there is research to indicate that there is a need for some amount of interventional, preventative, mostly perimeter burning. But not to the extent and amount that is being proposed. I, along with many living here have observed over many years the changes the SFNF has been going through. Such delicate, currently very dry high desert terrain cannot withstand widespread and repeatedly aggressive burning without ultimately dire long-term consequences to the entire environment. We have repeatedly seen burned out understory not replenish itself over decades, as a part of what was supposed to happen according to the SFNF previously prescribed burns.

The road to hell can be paved with good intentions. We do need to do something, but remember we are not in California. Listen to and take into serious consideration what other scientists have to offer specific to this area. Do the proper impact studies so that what you do will not end up becoming possibly devastating. Remember: Fools rush in. Overreacting out of fear is often counterproductive. The word 'backfire' comes to mind. As does the words, 'pausing with some humility in the face of crisis.'

Sincerely,

Claire R. Frye