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First name: Karla
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Comments: I live in the vicinity of Hwy 165 Mile Marker 5. In the past I lived in Los Alamos, and I have family who still live there. When my husband and I lived there, we had no air conditioning or swamp coolers, and in the summer we had to open our bedroom windows to sleep because of the heat. There were many nights when we had to close the windows because of the thick smoke from prescribed burns all summer. This still did not prevent the Cerro Grande fire, which my family experienced. They had to evacuate in a hurry down a treacherous forest road with 3 young children and their pets, and watch tv for days from where they sheltered to see if their home had burned. They were among the lucky ones who had a home to return to. Again recently my family in Los Alamos had their car packed and almost had to evacuate under similar conditions, now including the children who have grown into adults and have children of their own.

Here in Placitas we are among a large number of residents who recognize the need to clear brush and create better conditions to fight any wildfires that might occur, but we are requesting a solution that does not include prescribed burns. This is both for our heath (we are seniors with respiratory and other health conditions), and so that we do not live in fear of our homes and properties burning down from a preventable action.

I attended the meeting at the Placitas Library on 4/24/24. I found out about it from a friend just 30 minutes before the meeting. All the people I know who attended seemed to find out about the meeting the same way, by word of mouth. I would like to request that there be at least one more meeting with much better advanced notice to the community, so that many residents who did not know about the first meeting can attend. One of the officials in the meeting said that there had been a press release, but the only info that I saw was a Sandoval Signpost article that stated there would be a public meeting someday, with no specifics. I read the Albuquerque Journal and online news from tv station websites such as KOBtv.com.

I saw the slide presentation that you used at the 4/24/24 meeting, and the update to the slides indicating that the public comment period has been extended to 6/21/24 due to requests from the public. Thank you for this. I know some people who live farther up in the canyon who do not have Internet access or a smart phone. One of them was able to get a hardcopy comment form and she made copies for others. They will need the extra time to spread the word and submit comments by mail to your district office in Tijeras.