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Organization:
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Comments: Hello!

I am heartened that the Forest Service is planning to address the potential of a sweeping forest fire that could destroy our Placitas community. I have to admit that I dread every spring and early summer in fear of a devastating fire.

I attended the community meeting focused on the Forest Service's plan to address this issue. I was heartened by the ideas of thinning the fuels through cutting back on new growth and thinning out the oak and elm trees. However, the thought of a prescribed burn sends chills. As you know the spring and early summer months bring unpredictable winds that could cause a prescribed burn to get out of control as it did with the Calf Canyon/Hermits Peak fire and the Cerro Grande Fire in Los Alamos - two of the most devastating fires in New Mexico's history.

At this point, the roads leading into the forest, I believe it is Forest Road Loop 445, is in very poor condition and would not lend itself well for emergency vehicles to access in order to fight a forest fire. I would hope that if the Forest Service is bent on putting us all at risk through a prescribed burn that you create and carefully plan access for emergency vehicles into the area to suppress a fire before it destroys my home and community.

I am in agreement with preventative measures, such as populating the forests with mammals who will eat new growth, thinning fuels, and monitoring pests.

Thank you for your attention.

Katherine Irish