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Title: President

Comments: The community of the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant has deep generational and cultural ties, along with many others in this area, these ties are not just to the Placitas and the Las Huertas Canyon areas but also to all that is around us and encompasses us. To truly live in a place calls us to be symbiotic with all that is around you. Along with all that surrounds us, the Las Huertas Canyon, part of the Sandia Mountain area, has been an integral part of our ancestors' day to day life ways and survival. Today the Sandia Mountain area continues to be a part of the community of Placitas and our New Mexico community at large. We are made up of an eclectic tapestry of people all interconnected and concerned for the future safety and care of the Sandia Mountain area and all our forests.

The Sandia Mountain area holds life, our water sources, our past and the future of so many in the Placitas and surrounding areas. We are all interdependent upon one another and must rely on each other to ensure a future that protects and cares for our environment. The impact of a fire would be catastrophic to all, potentially contaminate our water sources and take generations to recover from just as all the past fires have been and are for all communities that suffer through them.

The San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant looks forward to continued discussions, input, collaboration with the Forest Service and all the entities that have a vested interest in the Sandia Mountain area. We hold the Forest Service responsible for their actions taken and/or inactions not taken. We have hope that the Forest Service takes their responsibilities, as the now care takers of the Sandia Mountains and all lands they oversee, with great seriousness and reverence and know that all steps taken or not taken impact and are vital to all of us. We, the San Antonio de las Huertas Land Grant, ask that the Forest Service continue to include us and others impacted by the Forest Service's "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan" in the process moving forward to allow for a plan that will evolve and change to best protect the area. The Sandia Mountain area is in the hands of the Forest Service and its future depends on the decisions and steps that the Forest Service takes throughout each part of their "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan."

The San Antonio de Las Huertas Land Grant looks forward to our promised field meeting with the Forest Service regarding the Forest Service's defined Traditional Cultural Properties of our Land Grant in the Las Huertas Canyon area that is part of the Sandia Mountain. This field meeting with the Forest Service is of great importance to us so that the flora and fauna of the Sandia Mountain continues to be recognized and protected and is a constant part of the Forest Service's "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan." We ask that this meeting happen before the Forest Service proceeds with their plan so that our Traditional Cultural Properties are a protected aspect of this plan and we have the opportunity to voice and make known these areas and other important areas to us that should also be factored into the Forest Service's plan.

It is imperative that the Forest Service be open to their plan evolving to reflect the specific needs and requirements of the unique landscape of the Las Huertas Canyon and the entire Sandia Mountain. Forest Service plans for fuel reduction cannot be a "one plan fits all" approach. We understand that there are Forest Service "tried and true" aspects of preliminarily clearing of "dead and down" debris but each area that is in need of attention is unique and the plan should be tailored to fit that specific area. We hope that this clearing of "dead and down" debris will be implemented as soon as possible by the Forest Service as the Las Huertas Canyon and North Sandia Mountain area as a whole has been neglected by the Forest Service for decades. It is also our hope that the Forest Service will implement the most up to date procedures and processes that reflect all that was learned through the past tragic New Mexico fires that still devastate so many of our New Mexico communities.

We ask that the Forest Service work with our Land Grant and help us in creating community collaboration programs to assist in the clearing of "dead and down" debris and make this and included part of the Forest Service's "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan." Our Land Grant, the Pueblos, parcientes of the acequias, the Placitas community and many community organizations all hope the Forest Service will see the value of this collective community opportunity and help us with implementation of this collaboration. We have many ready to step forward and participate in caring for our forest areas and welcome the chance to pitch in and help along with the professional guidance of the Forest Service.

We ask that the Forest Service follow through with their promise of continued public informational meetings. These meetings will allow for community input and Forest Service updates regarding the Forest Service's plan, proposed implementation, timelines and the consistent inclusion, input and consideration of the communities that could be and are affected by the Forest Service's plan.

We ask that the Forest Service take into consideration the serious impact of climate change on our forests and the implementation of more research and needed studies. This research should include any necessary environmental studies that would aid in a better understanding of the fragile ecosystem and how to most successfully preserve the Sandia Mountain area. And also, as new information and data is gathered, we ask that the Forest Service's "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan" be changed to reflect the newest data that will help ensure safety and best protect our forest and communities.

We ask that the Forest Service more clearly define the timelines within their plan so that the public has a better idea of the process the Forest Service will be following for the Forest Service's "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan."

We thank our public officials for listening to our concerns and their continued help in making sure that we have a voice and that the Forest Service's "North Sandia Fuels Reduction Plan" is carried out in the most responsible way possible.

We thank the Forest Service for allowing our communities to be heard, we ask that you please keep listening.

We look forward to developing a positive working relationship with the Forest Service that will allow us all to move together towards improving the dilapidated state of our Sandia Mountain Forest in an accountable manner that will keep our communities safe.