

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/5/2024 6:19:25 PM

First name: Steven

Last name: Earle

Organization: San Juan Outdoor Club

Title: President

Comments: On behalf of the San Juan Outdoor Club, I am writing in support of Option 2 identified in the Environmental Assessment for the Jackson Mountain Landscape Fuels Reduction and Vegetation Management Project. We agree that a more active program will result in a healthier forest on Jackson Mountain.

The club is familiar with the area and does recreate there. While we anticipate that recreational activities will be negatively impacted during certain operations, we believe the long term impact will be positive. Further, a healthier forest will be more resistant to a larger fire which protects both the forest resources as well as our community, in particular the San Juan River Village subdivision. Further, we have seen the results of mechanical thinning operations such as mastication and mowing in the Turkey Springs area. After only a couple of years, the results are a more attractive and healthier forest environment. We also support efforts to maintain the mountain meadows from forest encroachment as outlined in the EA.

A review of the proposed operations provide a careful approach that will minimize any short term issues while maximizing long term health of the resources here. Modern forestry best practices applied here at Jackson Mountain can help reverse decades of management that has resulted in a forest that is more dangerous in terms of an out-of-control fire event that puts both the forest and human resources at risk.