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First name: Abbot

Last name: Silouan

Organization: Monastery of the Holy Archangel Michael

Title: Abbot

Comments: To Whom It May Concern,

Greetings! My name is Fr. Silouan. I am the abbot of the Monastery of the Holy Archangel Michael located in Canones, NM. Our monastic community, numbering twelve presently, is quite alarmed about the proposed project in the Santa Fe National Forest that surrounds our dwelling. There is a high risk of significant impact on the health of our brotherhood, our land, and all the wildlife that we so much enjoy. Firstly, we have two members of our community with compromised health: one is Fr. Andrew, the founder of the monastery, who is turning 87 years old this summer, and the other is myself, struggling with Stage IV lung cancer and undergoing chemotherapy treatments currently and through the summer. Whenever a fire occurs in the forest, the smoke comes down and settles in the canyon; this will create a high breathing risk for both of us. Secondly, the impact on Canones creek when the storm water comes rushing down the burned hillsides will be catastrophic, destroying bridges and presas, depositing many feet of silt on our farming lands. Thirdly, we are eyewitnesses of the unique biodiversity of our canyon's fauna. We have seen spotted owls several times; leopard frogs make their abode in our waterways, and the creek is one of the last to carry native cutthroat trout. All of these creatures will suffer as a result of the proposed burnings. We appreciate you hearing us out and considering our objection. Please contact us if you would like to discuss these objections we have made.

God bless you!

Sincerely,

Abbot Silouan

Monastery of the Holy Archangel Michael