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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I request a re-evaluation of current fuel reduction and prescribed burning practices before approving this proposal. My main concern is that Wildland Urban Interface Communities require more specific analysis and safer alternative fuel-reduction treatments, including chipping. A Safety Zone Buffer needs to be created between adjacent communities and burn areas. Acknowledge the health hazards of close proximity and prolonged exposure to smoke particulates. Improve community interaction. Residents are unaware of how their forests are going to be 'treated' until it is too late. I was recently told I should make sacrifices for the greater good and to accept smoke exposure as an inconvenience. I have already sacrificed a beloved forest in the Gallina Canyon to the devastating elimination of 80% of the living trees. I request a buffer from smoke hazards be created with the use of chipping. Chipping is an immediate method of fuel reduction from slash that does not endanger the health of residents and their animals. I suggest thinning be carried out in stages to prevent drastic habitat disruption. There needs to be more supervision of subcontracted thinning crews who do not have an understanding of old-growth forests and biodiversity. They are given little guidance and forced to meet unrealistic deadlines. Project areas need to be completed and cleaned up in a timely fashion, not abandoned with recreational trails blocked by felled trees that are in inaccessible areas, preventing removal. Continue to mark old-growth trees and mixed-size 'leave' trees. Improve interagency connections. Eliminate the disconnect between the NM Forestry Division being responsible for the cutting and the USFS being responsible for the clean-up. Make available town hall meetings to address concerns of community members and work together to create a safer plan. Most people agree our forests are overgrown, but people's input needs to be considered instead of continually dismissed by those invested in these projects. Extend the comment period.