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First name: Sue
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for considering comments regarding the Truchas to Upper Costilla Headwaters Active Management Project. Having lost my home to the 1996 Hondo Fire, I am in favor of restoring forests to conditions that resist high-intensity fires. However, having hiked through the Vallecitos area accessed by Carson National Forest Road 476 and having seen some of the results of the McGaffey Forest and Rio Grande del Rancho Watershed Restoration Project, I have serious misgivings about the scale and scope of the project proposed for the Truchas to Upper Costilla Headwaters.

I do not have expertise regarding forest management, but common sense tells me that large-scale projects can be appropriate but specificity should take precedence in forest plans, particularly in light of our changing climate. Will roads truly be decommissioned at the completion of the treatment? Has the impact of steep-slope logging and increased road usage on wildlife and its habitat been thoroughly assessed?

I hope that the design of this plan, which includes the removal of many trees, has not been driven by the Department of Agriculture's recommendation that forests boost the pace of resource extraction. What I've witnessed in the Vallecitos area gives me pause. Additionally, some research contradicts the claim that building or developing more roads helps fight wildfires.

Thank you again for soliciting public input.

Sincerely,
Sue Goldberg
Taos, NM