

Santa Fe, NM 87501

April 11th, 2024

Dear Mr. Sando and USFS officials,
I am writing in protest and ^{to express my} disapproval
of the Encino Vista project and other controlled
burns and forest thinning activities funded by
the peoples' tax dollars!

Whenever the Forest Service justifies these
projects, the threat of catastrophic fires are
used as a primary justification. In the past
catastrophic
fires! decades, especially the Calf Canyon / Hermit's
Peak fire, the Cerro Grande fire, and the
Cerro Pelado fire were the results of Forest
Service activities / controlled burns, that were
disastrous. Over 387,000 acres have been
burned by Forest Service projects, whereas
only 27,016 were the result of other causes,
human or natural. This is not sustainable
nor ethical forest management. It is
reckless and short sighted.

The areas I have seen in the Santa Fe
mountain Friesed project already treated
look terrible. They are dried out from the
removal of a large percentage of the upper
forest canopy, and there are signs of
erosion, as well as a huge amount of
unburned slash piles in all directions
(e.g. - Parkers Canyon road to Bonito T.N.O.)!

If you really want to do something significant in forest fire prevention, how about replacing a lot of power lines with underground lines, as so many fires begin from lines sparking and wind blown snags breaking transmission lines. It would be cheaper than the billions of dollars that the Hermit Peak / Galt Canyon uncontrolled burn is costing taxpayers for many years to come.

I personally feel, as do most of my friends, that you are on the wrong track with your forest thinning and controlled burns. Your actions are a statement that you know more than Mother Nature and you're going to impose your faulty judgment on the forests and mountains of Northern New Mexico. I know there is a lot of money and jobs involved in your strategy to execute these plans, and that you won't really listen to public input. Your actions will have long term detrimental impact on the ecosystems of Northern New Mexico for trees, wildlife, and people. And I am sorry that you are so set on your plans and faulty strategy. Sincerely, M. P. & C. Press

P.S. At the very least, you need to conduct a proper Environmental Impact Statement, rather than just attempting to hurry this project by, and elude public scrutiny! I will be in touch with my Congressional Representative by the way.