



U.S.A. RANCH

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Dec. 16, 2019

RE: Rito Encanto Comments

As community members from Cañones, NM. And grazing allotment owners on the Youngsville + Mesa del Medio allotments, and heirs of the Jun Bructista Valdez land Grants we TOTALLY OPPOSE this project for the following reasons;

- (1) The Cañones creek watershed does not need anymore disruptions from its natural state. erosion, etc, etc. Back in the 1960's The forest service cleared vast areas, without any NEPA or EIS assessments as to any longterm effects this would have on the watershed. To this day we are still seeing the effects of The unplanned logging operation. The silt and deeper cuts in the meadows on the creek bottoms. This means some of our most valuable grazing has been lost. Then the Elk population is playing a huge factor in all this areas.
- (2) The NEPA and EIS studies are far from realization because they do not take in effect the longterm effects of this plan on the community. The cultural traditional and social economic values will be affected. The Pueblo ruins that are in this area "Mesa del Pueblo" the trail into the Mogote canyon is a national trail. All of these areas stand to be ruined with burn scars, not to mention the added silt and erosion. The trout habitats in the Cañones creek + Chihauweños creek will be severely damaged.
- (3) As allotment holders the forest service will defer our grazing due to burn scars and rehabilitation. The widening of roads to create fire breaks will scar the land. As there are countless roads aside from the main roads and four wheeler or ATV roads we do not need anymore roads. The forest service personnel is adamant that it control burn will not get around, but if it does we as the Agricultural community have to deal with washed out bridges diversion dams erosion loss of Irrigation for our crops →

RE RITO ENCINO

Dec 14, 2019

- (4) Last but not least, The Forest Service say this will open up more area for grazing of elk. We do not need more area for the elk population, what we need is to physically remove the elk herds out of our traditional grazing areas. Any benefit we do to the area the elk are the first ones to take advantage. We have vested rights in these allotments and as owners of the allotments and community members our concerns should be taken in to consideration. ALSO the name of this such project should be "Rito Encino" something we can relate to. this other way it seems foreign as can be.

Sincerely,

Encino Seleya