

Imler-Jacquez, Sandra R -FS

From: Jonathan Glass <jonathan@courseofhumanevents.org>
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2019 6:51 PM
To: FS-comments-southwestern-santafe
Subject: Encino Vista Landscape Restoration Project

December 19, 2019

Via email to: *comments-southwestern-santafe@usda.gov*

Ref: comments on Encino Vista Landscape Restoration Project

Dear Santa Fe National Forest,

The Encino Vista project proposal is an unwelcome surprise. Please consider the following:

Encino Vista is the largest project ever proposed by SFNF. Burn smoke from the proposed action will adversely affect the health of people in communities up to hundreds of miles away.

Announcement of the project and its scoping period did not even make it to SFNF's main news release email list used for far smaller projects and far more minor news.

There has been no mention of the Encino Vista Project in newspapers or other news, including Santa Fe National Forest's own online news feed.

At least several people and organizations well known by SFNF likely not to be in accord with a project such as Encino Vista were not notified about the project in advance of scoping.

Roughly a million people live within about a hundred miles of the up to hundred-plus thousand acres proposed to be burned.

The Encino Vista is a major federal project which will certainly affect the quality of the human environment - particularly the air we all breathe. As such, it feels unconscionable for SFNF not to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for public consideration before proceeding.

Burning millions of tons of vegetation across tens of thousands of acres will be irreversible in the lifetimes of many or all New Mexicans and be a significant contributor to the state's worsening air pollution and our planet's climate crisis. Such a project should be undertaken only with great care prior analysis, if at all. The scoping document's stated purpose ignores the highly questionable scientific basis of fuels treatments on forests and presents nothing resembling a cost-benefit analysis that the public deserves before contemplating such an impactful project.

Please put the Encino Vista project on hold pending release of an Environmental Impact Statement which demonstrates a clear, positive cost-benefit of the undertaking backed by the best available science.

Please also make this and all other public comments submitted in relation to this project publicly available in unredacted form as soon as possible.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Glass

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