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**File Code:** 1950  
**Date:** December 8, 2022

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to notify you about the release of the Draft Decision Notice (DN), Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) and Final Environmental Assessment (EA) on December 9th, 2022, for the Santa Fe Mountain Landscape Resiliency Project (SFMLRP). In July, the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) withdrew the DN/FONSI and EA during suppression of the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon Fire. The pause in the environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) gave the SFNF the opportunity to focus on fire suppression, fire rehabilitation work, and provide for the incorporation of the findings of the Chief's Prescribed Fire Program Review. This time also allowed the forest to re-engage with partners and communities on the urgent need to make the forested landscapes around Santa Fe more resilient to the threats of climate change, drought, and wildfire.

The SFMLRP is a restoration focused project spanning 50,566-acre area proposed by the U.S. Forest Service, Espanola and Pecos-Las Vegas Ranger Districts. The purpose of the SFMLRP is to improve the ecosystem resilience of a priority landscape to future disturbances by restoring forest structure and composition and reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfire by treating approximately 38,680 acres. Restoration activities will occur in multiple ecological response units (ERUs), including mixed conifer frequent fire forest, ponderosa pine forest, pinyon-juniper woodlands and grasslands, and riparian areas. Restoration activities will focus on vegetation thinning and prescribed fire treatments to improve forest resiliency by reducing stand density, stand continuity, and stand homogeneity (sameness of forest structure and species composition) and increase heterogeneity (diverse forest structure and species composition) at a landscape scale, mid-scale, and fine scale.

Objections will only be accepted from those who have previously submitted specific written comments regarding the proposed project during scoping or other designated opportunity for public comment in accordance with §218.5(a). Issues raised in objections must be based on previously submitted timely, specific written comments regarding the proposed project unless based on new information arising after the designated comment opportunities.

Objections must be submitted within 45 days following the publication of a legal notice in the *Albuquerque Journal*. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an objection. Those wishing to object should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. The regulations prohibit extending the time to file an objection. Objections, including attachments, must be filed via mail to Regional Forester, 333 Broadway SE, Albuquerque, NM 87102; by fax to 505-842-3173; or by email to [objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov](mailto:objections-southwestern-regional-office@usda.gov).



At minimum, an objection must include the following (36 CFR 218.8(d)):

1. The objector's name and address, with a telephone number, if available;
2. A signature or other verification of authorship upon request (a scanned signature for email may be filed with the objection);
3. When multiple names are listed on an objection, identification of the lead objector (verification of the identity of the lead objector shall be provided upon request);
4. The name of the proposed project, the name and title of the Responsible Official, and the name of the National Forest and/or Ranger District on which the proposed project will be implemented;
5. A description of those aspects of the project addressed by the objection, including specific issues related to the proposed project if applicable, how the objector believes the environmental analysis or draft decision specifically violates law, regulation, or policy; suggested remedies that would resolve the objection; supporting reasons for the reviewing officer to consider;
6. A statement that demonstrates connection between prior specific written comments on the particular proposed project or activity and the content of the objection.

Incorporation of documents by reference is permitted only as provided in §218.8(b). It is the objector's responsibility to ensure timely filing of a written objection with the reviewing officer pursuant to §218.9. All objections are available for public inspection during and after the objection process.

Organizations or individuals who previously submitted comments specific to the SFMLRP during scoping or the comment period can submit an objection in the new objection period. Objections submitted in the earlier objection period that ended May 12 will have to be resubmitted to be considered.

Sincerely,



JAMES D. DURAN  
Forest Supervisor