
File Code: 1910
Date: July 26, 2022

Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project

Dear Reader,

This letter is to inform you that I am withdrawing the draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact released on March 28, 2022, for the Santa Fe Mountains Landscape Resiliency Project (SFMLRP) on the Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF). The SFNF is taking this step to reengage with our partners and community on this very important project to improve forest health in and around Santa Fe.

Over the last three months, the suppression and ongoing post-fire recovery efforts of the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon Fires have required an “all hands on deck” approach at multiple levels of the agency, delaying work on many other significant projects for the SFNF. We recognize that these fires have taken up a great deal of attention and energy from the communities in and around the Santa Fe National Forest.

The analysis in the final Environmental Assessment (EA) is sound. The decision to withdraw the draft decision is to acknowledge that the objection period is an important step in the NEPA process and a final opportunity for public engagement on the project. Before we sign a decision for the SFMLRP, we want to have the opportunity to fully engage with our partners and community during the Chief’s 90-day pause of the Forest Service prescribed fire program. There is still a pressing need for the project’s objectives of restoring ecosystem resiliency, continuing to provide clean and abundant water to the City of Santa Fe, and strengthening our communal connection to the land within the Greater Santa Fe Fireshed.

By withdrawing the draft decision, we also terminate the pre-decisional objection period. All objections submitted will be set aside from consideration as required by 36 CFR 218.10(a)(9). Our intent is to reinitiate the decision and NEPA process for this project after the Chief’s 90-day pause with the publication of a legal notice in the Albuquerque Journal, the newspaper of record. If you previously submitted an objection to the final environmental assessment and draft notice of decision, you will need to resubmit your objection at that time.

Sincerely,

JAMES D. DURAN
Acting Forest Supervisor

