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To: FS-objections-southwestern-regional-office
Subject: FEIS Response
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2015 1:08:23 PM
Attachments: FEIS final response 2015.wps

In it's FEIS the U.S. Forest Service has chosen to downplay studies that indicate mercury will be released with prescribed and slash pile burning. They have also chosen to disregard studies showing hospitalizations will increase with the publics exposure to this smoke.

The U.S. Forest Service has not provided adequate protection for the citizens of Coconino county and surrounding counties directly effected by the burning outlined in the 4Fri plan. The practice of "averting behavior" recommended by the Forest Service is not practical or possible. By brushing aside research that shows exposure to particulates of these proposed levels may increase hospitalizations, the forest service is directly shifting the cost of control burning to the individuals sickened by the smoke, insurance companies, and schools/workplaces with lost attendance due to illness. Not to mention the pain and suffering of smoke exposed citizens.

The FEIS provides no studies which outline the toll massive airborne volatilized accelerants (used to ignite slash piles) will have on the health and well being of Northern Arizona citizens. Large amounts of toxins will be released by these control burns and inhaled by the general public with no knowledge of their long term health outcomes.
The environment will be adversely effected by release of a minimum of 31 thousand pounds of particulates per acre (as stated in FEIS). Making carbon emissions, mercury, particulates and other toxins airborne and traveling for great distances. The U. S. Forest Service states that smaller control burns are better than large wildfires in terms of particulates and carbon emissions. It fails to take into account the fact that numerous control burns are taking place in multiple counties on an almost daily basis. Thus making the exposure to control burn smoke a more frequent and pervasive event, for which again the forest service has no idea of it's consequences on public health.

The FEIS has no plan to inform the public that exposure to particulates and toxins can have a negative impact on their health status. It has no plan to compensate the victims of the pollution for their pain, suffering and medical expenses. It only perpetuates the fear that if control burns are not conducted, that massive wildfires will be the future of our state. It does not allow for safer healthier alternatives of logging, thinning, animal grazing, chipping, and recycling as their main goal. It is mainly concerned with reintroducing fire to the landscape, yet portraying to the public that it is all about controlling wildfires and that this is their only choice. The cost of 400 dollars per acre using mechanical techniques is a far cheaper alternative when weighed against the health of our citizens, the cost to insurance companies/hospitals and to school and workforce attendance.

What the U.S. Forest Service is proposing with the virtual daily, multiple county exposures from control/slash pile burning is unconscionable and the public through education will not stand for a plan such as this.

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