

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
JOINT ECONOMIC

September 17, 2018

Mr. Douglas Crandall
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Yates Building, 4 Central
201 Fourteenth Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Crandall:

Please see the enclosed letter from my constituents, Ms. Cathy Garcia and Mr. Scott White, on behalf of the Members of the Democratic Socialists of America Santa Fe Chapter, regarding the Hyde Park Wildland Urban Interface Project.

In the desert southwest, water is an increasingly precious resource. The effects of climate change have led to bigger wildfires, drier summers, and reduced snowpack in the winter. Reduced water levels threaten New Mexico's landscapes, tribes, farmers, and endangered species.

Responsible forest management is a critical component of securing New Mexico's water resources. We rely on our forests for drinking water and firewood, to fill our freezers, and to support our outdoor recreation economy.

Please respond directly to Ms. Garcia and Mr. Scott and provide Ms. Jordan Burns in my office with a copy.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

August 26, 2018

Senator Tom Udall

531 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-3101

attention: Michele Jacquez-Ortiz; Michele_Jacquez-Ortiz@tomudall.senate.gov

Senator Martin Heinrich

702 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

attention: Patricia Dominguez; Patricia_dominguez@heinrich.senate.gov

Dear Senators Udall and Heinrich:

The Democratic Socialists of America has rapidly grown to be the largest organization of its kind working for democratic socialist policies in the United States. We advocate for a society and economy that is democratically run and embodies the shared values of liberty, equality, and solidarity for every citizen. The Santa Fe Chapter of DSA is an active and growing member of this vibrant movement.

It has come to our attention that the Santa Fe National Forest recently approved the nearly 2,000 acre Hyde Park wildlands urban interface project in wilderness quality lands less than ten miles from Santa Fe's historic plaza. It proposes to remove more than 90 percent of the trees and burn nearly every acre.

An environmental impact statement was not prepared that fully involves the public, analyzes a range of reasonable alternatives, considers the best available science and mandates measures to protect water quality, soils and wildlife habitat. Instead, the Hyde Park project was approved under the categorical exclusion provision of the National Environmental Policy Act, the lowest level of analysis possible.

Most importantly, the Hyde Park project is the first in the Santa Fe Headwaters Forest, Santa Fe's scenic 167 square mile forested backdrop. It includes the Santa Fe Ski Basin, Hyde Memorial State Park, the Santa Fe Municipal Watershed, portions of the Pecos Wilderness and Tesuque and Nambe Pueblos, extensive inventoried roadless areas and high value habitat for breeding birds and other wildlife. The Headwaters provides recreation and outdoor enjoyment to more than 100,000 nearby residents and thousands of visitors.

The adverse cumulative, indirect and direct impacts of slash and burn practices over many years will prevent roadless lands in the Headwaters ever being considered for wilderness protection. These impacts include the effects on air quality from prescribed burning and the effects on water quality, soils and wildlife from mechanical treatments including stream sedimentation, soil erosion, wildlife displacement, habitat modification and the spread of invasive weed species.

We request that you each become advocates for a hard look at these activities. At minimum, an environmental impact statement based on the best available science that involves concerned citizens to the fullest extent possible must be done before the trees fall and intentionally set fires burn. In addition, your support for wilderness designation for more than 30,000 roadless acres on western side of the Pecos Wilderness is urgently needed.

Socialism, wilderness preservation and sustainability are inextricably linked in the pioneering figure of Bob Marshall (1901-1939), a wilderness advocate and unabashed socialist who served as a Forest Service employee during the 1930s. Remembering his legacy, we urge you to act boldly now in the public interest to preserve these wilderness quality lands for the benefit of future generations.

Sincerely,

The Members of the DSA Santa Fe Chapter
Cathy Garcia and Scott White, co-chairs
santafedsa@gmail.com