

11/28/2022

The Honorable Judge Channing Strother
Office of Administrative Law Judges
United States Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave., S. W.
Stop 9202, Room 1049, South Building
Washington, D. C. 20250-9202
RE: Docket Number: 22-J-0052

Dear Sir:

This letter is in response to a Public Notice and Request for comments for an application for timber removal from Bell Timber, Inc. for a Sourcing Area for its Longview and Bellingham, Washington facilities. The maps attached to the application include the state of New Mexico. I, Ubaldo Garcia am opposed to the approval of the application. I speak on behalf of others who have small logging companies and on behalf of my native brothers who have lived on these lands for generations.

I am Ubaldo Garcia and I live in Gallina, New Mexico. I was born and raised in this small mountain community. Gallina is located on the west side of the Jemez Mountains bordered on the east by the Santa Fe National Forest and on the west by Bureau of Land Management. Gallina is 100 miles northwest of Santa Fe and 120 miles north of Albuquerque. I have 17 acres of land left to me by my parents and I operate a small logging company.

Gallina was settled in the early 1800's and was originally part of the San Joaquin Land Grant which consisted of 400,000 plus acres. The people here in Gallina have made their livelihood from logging, restoration of the forest lands, and livestock ranching. Gallina is slowly losing population. The population during the day consists of people in their 50's and 60's who relied on logging to make a living. The rest are school age children and some elderly. Every day most of the younger generation go to Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Albuquerque, and Espanola to work. They choose to live here and raise their children in a community with a strong heritage and community traditions. Part of our heritage has been to be caretakers and guardians of the forest around us.

For generations, the population has remained stewards and guardians of this community, the land the forests, and the water. Those who were here before us handed down practices that were utilized to preserve the water and the land. They relied on the forest for firewood and building materials for their homes. They restored the forest when needed. These practices are followed to this day. Today there are practices from others that choose to restore new growth in the forest by doing prescribed burns. We know what a devastating consequence that was for our neighbors in Mora County, New Mexico. I know that our forest needs to be thinned out to avoid destruction by a big fire but lately thinning contracts are hard to come by.

Reforestation will take more than my lifetime for trees to grow to be suitable for logging. I and others are no longer allowed to work in the forest to help conserve trees. The last piece of forest land that was thinned and logged was a 2016 project by the state of New Mexico to protect

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watersheds. Materials left over were shared with communities within a 100- mile radius to use as firewood and for building materials. We live 6 miles from a natural gas line going south so most of the people in this area still depend on firewood to cook their meals and heat their homes.

The forest needs constant care and attention. Thinning is better than control burns to keep the forest healthy. The recent fire in Mora County, New Mexico is proof of this. Extreme drought conditions and dense forestation went up like a tinder box.

Thinning contracts have been scarce in the past few years to preserve wildlife like the spotted owl and to set up wilderness areas. When the logging and thinning jobs were stopped most of the small mills shut down and people were left without jobs. Many had to leave their communities to find other jobs. Now larger logging companies buy their timber from private landowners.

I think creating wilderness areas and not allowing local people like me to work in the forest to keep it clean is an attempt to lock us out of our homes and communities for wealthy companies and individuals to take our land from us or leave it so scarred that the forest as we know it may never recover. For example, the San Pedro Wilderness is a fire waiting to happen. The trails are so thick with forestation that it is dangerous to even think of hiking up there. I am helping a private land owner clear old pinon trees that are infested with beetles due to the severe drought conditions. Nothing is being done, to my knowledge, to protect the trees in the forest. I know how important the forest is to me and how important it was for my family before me. I know how important it is to protect it for future generations.

I am asking that you do not approve the application from Bell Timber, Inc. for a sourcing area in our forest for its Longview and Bellingham, Washington facilities at this time.

- Bell Timber was granted approval on an application that was very difficult to read or complete unless you had access to a lawyer. It had 18 pages of information required before I could start the application. I had to apply for a SAMS number instead of being able to use my DUNS number to apply. I asked for assistance in getting a SAMS number but found out not too many people knew what it was.
- How will approving this application benefit the areas mentioned on the maps? Will local people be hired?
- The Forest Service and Bell Timber, Inc need to meet with communities and explain projects like the Stewardship Project and let people ask questions and give input.
- Doesn't Bell Timber, Inc. have enough timber in Washington? Why do they want to come here?
- Why did they get approved so fast? Did they have prior knowledge of the project? A good lawyer?

<p>1. <u>Содержание</u> 1.1. <u>Введение</u> 1.2. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 1.3. <u>Методология</u> 1.4. <u>Результаты</u> 1.5. <u>Заключение</u></p>	<p>1. <u>Содержание</u> 1.1. <u>Введение</u> 1.2. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 1.3. <u>Методология</u> 1.4. <u>Результаты</u> 1.5. <u>Заключение</u></p>
<p>2. <u>Введение</u> 2.1. <u>Актуальность</u> 2.2. <u>Объект и предмет</u> 2.3. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 2.4. <u>Методология</u> 2.5. <u>Результаты</u> 2.6. <u>Заключение</u></p>	<p>2. <u>Введение</u> 2.1. <u>Актуальность</u> 2.2. <u>Объект и предмет</u> 2.3. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 2.4. <u>Методология</u> 2.5. <u>Результаты</u> 2.6. <u>Заключение</u></p>
<p>3. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 3.1. <u>Цели</u> 3.2. <u>Задачи</u></p>	<p>3. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 3.1. <u>Цели</u> 3.2. <u>Задачи</u></p>
<p>4. <u>Методология</u> 4.1. <u>Методы</u> 4.2. <u>Инструменты</u> 4.3. <u>Процесс</u></p>	<p>4. <u>Методология</u> 4.1. <u>Методы</u> 4.2. <u>Инструменты</u> 4.3. <u>Процесс</u></p>
<p>5. <u>Результаты</u> 5.1. <u>Анализ</u> 5.2. <u>Синтез</u> 5.3. <u>Выводы</u></p>	<p>5. <u>Результаты</u> 5.1. <u>Анализ</u> 5.2. <u>Синтез</u> 5.3. <u>Выводы</u></p>
<p>6. <u>Заключение</u> 6.1. <u>Итоги</u> 6.2. <u>Рекомендации</u></p>	<p>6. <u>Заключение</u> 6.1. <u>Итоги</u> 6.2. <u>Рекомендации</u></p>

<p>7. <u>Список литературы</u> 7.1. <u>Основная литература</u> 7.2. <u>Дополнительная литература</u></p>	<p>7. <u>Список литературы</u> 7.1. <u>Основная литература</u> 7.2. <u>Дополнительная литература</u></p>
<p>8. <u>Приложения</u> 8.1. <u>Таблицы</u> 8.2. <u>Графики</u> 8.3. <u>Схемы</u></p>	<p>8. <u>Приложения</u> 8.1. <u>Таблицы</u> 8.2. <u>Графики</u> 8.3. <u>Схемы</u></p>
<p>9. <u>Сводный список</u> 9.1. <u>Содержание</u> 9.2. <u>Введение</u> 9.3. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 9.4. <u>Методология</u> 9.5. <u>Результаты</u> 9.6. <u>Заключение</u> 9.7. <u>Список литературы</u> 9.8. <u>Приложения</u></p>	<p>9. <u>Сводный список</u> 9.1. <u>Содержание</u> 9.2. <u>Введение</u> 9.3. <u>Цели и задачи</u> 9.4. <u>Методология</u> 9.5. <u>Результаты</u> 9.6. <u>Заключение</u> 9.7. <u>Список литературы</u> 9.8. <u>Приложения</u></p>

- How will Bell Timber Inc. and the Forest Service insure protection of people's rights and the communities in the mapped areas? This includes the rights of my native brothers.
- How will the Forest Service insure the rights of private landowners and private lands?
- How will the Forest Service and Bell Timber, Inc guarantee that the forest will not be left so damaged that fires and flooding do not happen?
- Why didn't the Forest Service help local companies to get this project?

These are just some of the many questions I have and that concern me. I hope my concerns are listened to and that you stop this application until I know why it is necessary to do stewardship in my area.

Thank you.

"I certify that the information provided by me is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that failure to provide true and accurate information could be violation of the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001)"

Respectfully,



Ubaldo Garcia

PO Box 55

Gallina, New Mexico 87017

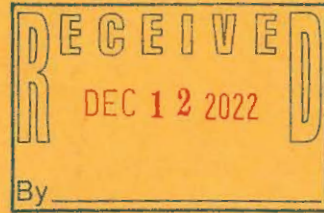
Xc: Regional Forester

ATTN: Director, Natural Resources

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