

Dear Ms Smith and Ms D'Amico,

I have some concerns about the Bear Country Timber Sale and they are as follows:

- 1) I do not understand why there isn't a 20"-diameter limit on logging big trees. Trees over 20" diameter are fire resistant and excellent harbors for CO2.
- 2) Logging will not increase fire safety. Fire suppression thinning should take place around homes and small towns and not in the forest. Stop perpetuating the myth that thinning the forest will prevent fires and make our homes safer. Clearings such as those proposed will dry out soil, encourage fire-prone brush and increase the risk of extreme fire.
- 3) Why not use the existing road network instead of creating new roads? New roads and their construction are bad for wildlife and track invasives into the area.
- 4) The Northern Spotted Owl is our canary in the coal mine. Protect it and remove its potential habitat from logging plans.
- 5) Manage the Wild and Scenic River corridor to enhance and maintain the outstandingly remarkable values intended for protection.

Thank you for considering my point of view on these plans.

Best regards,

Rose Gerstner

