

Hi Dankia,

Please refocus the Bear Country Project on community fire safety, plantation thinning, maintaining wildfire escape routes for local residents, and implementing prescribed fire treatments adjacent to homesteads or communities on the Salmon River. These activities will increase fire safety and community fire resilience, while the logging proposed in the Bear Country Timber Sale would have the opposite **affect**.

Consider the implementing the following points:

- Retain all large, fire resistant trees over 20" diameter throughout the project area.
- Maintain 70% canopy cover in all dry Douglas fir stands to maintain fire resistance, reduce an aggressive understory shrub response and protect Northern spotted owl habitat conditions.
- Cancel all new road construction and road reconstruction. Utilize the existing road network, while focusing on communities and timber plantations, rather than logging natural conifer stands and emphasizing timber production.
- Cancel all commercial logging units in the Wild and Scenic Salmon River corridor.
- Manage the Wild and Scenic River corridor specifically to enhance and maintain the numerous scenic, recreational and biological values the Salmon River is famous for, not for timber production.
- Cancel all logging units over 80 years of age in Late Successional Reserve forest.
- Cancel all commercial logging units currently supporting Nesting, Roosting and Foraging for the Northern spotted owl.
- Do not downgrade, degrade or remove suitable Northern Spotted Owl habitat.
- Cancel all mastication units. If fuel reduction is needed on this landscape, that work can be done manually.
- Cancel all Mechanized Equipment for Piling and Drainage Construction units. Creating additional soil impacts to recovering dozerlines is unnecessary, unacceptable and counterproductive.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Andrew Schwarz

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