

Dear Ms Carlson,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Bear Country Timber Sale. I'd like to express my concerns. While I applaud plantation thinning, community fire safety, maintaining fire escape routes and prescribed fire treatments near communities on the Salmon River, I have strong objections to other aspects of the proposal.

I think most of the commercial logging should be scrapped from the plan. We need to maintain our large (over 20") trees for their fire resistance and to reduce the possibility of the understory drying out and becoming more fire prone. That's also why it's important to maintain a good canopy, at least 70%. We should not log areas/units that are over 80 years of age, instead we should protect these areas.

Further, the health of the forest residents, including the spotted owl but also the soil (which would be damaged seriously using mastication) requires maintenance and care of the old trees, canopy and soil. Mastication and road building not only destroy soil but also track invasive plants into the forest. This must be minimized by building no new roads. We should cancel mechanized equipment for piling and drainage construction to protect our forest soil and keep it retaining carbon.

I suggest we focus on protecting communities and logging timber plantations rather than logging natural conifer stands and emphasizing timber production.

Thanks again,

Rose Gerstner
5198 Sterling Creek Rd
Jacksonville OR 97530
541-899-3988