

Dewar KNF Folks,

The Bear Country EA proposes logging many natural timber stands because they supposedly are at risk for catastrophic fire. But, as experience and relevant research confirms, these natural stands on predominantly northern exposures are actually at low risk for catastrophic fire effects, especially as compared to the many dense tree plantations that are in need of thinning.

Therefore, do the responsible thing: drop the natural stands and concentrate on tree plantations, and in particular, those on the upper 1/3 of south facing slopes.

Stop your drive for timber volume masquerading as fire risk reduction. Manage for old forest conditions because old forests are less prone to catastrophic fire and store the most carbon. Manage the KNF as a carbon reserve rather than a source of logs for the timber industry.

Please include this comment in the official record.

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