Regarding the 58,000 acres of forest management plan I have these concerns:

1) Cutting down trees in a forest is killing a forest, in a forest that is dying not because of too many trees; it is scientifically proven human caused climate change. So rather than managing the cause of the demise of the Sierra forests, the plan is to help kill the forest to prevent a small town from burning.

Surely it is not trees that will burn the town; it is the effects of mankind again. The flaw in the mentality that a thinned out forest is a solution can be easily debunked by past fires that have burned communities. The fire that destroyed Swall Meadows although located in the INF had very few trees, let alone a forest. The horrific fire the destroyed Paradise in northern CA. raced into that town before people could even leave. It was again not caused by dense forests, but rather because fires of the past had burned the surrounding forest and was replaced by fast burning cheetgrass. That fire traveled at the speed of the wind. A dense forest protecting Paradise would have given people time to leave and perhaps given fire protections a chance to work.

The idea that a thin forest is safer than a dense forest is askew as well. Sure most have experienced building a camp fire. Starting the fire requires a spacious pile of kindling, not a dense piece of wood because a fire needs an accelerant. That accelerant is O2. Oxygen is the power and the gas pedal of the flame. Thinning a forest creates a faster moving fire.

People come to the Sierra from all over world because the forests are some of the most natural or unmanaged in the world. Wilderness. Turning the forests into thinned out tree farms can be seen clearly walking into Shady Rest Park. The forests has been destroyed all around Mammoth with the proposal to destroy more. The protected Valentine Preserve, the only preserved natural forest in the community, the only one left was managed last year with chain saws. The local firewood company was hired to take out a third of the trees. It broke my heart.

There is a trail adjacent to the Preserve coming down behind Juniper Springs down to old Mammoth where this fall it was decided to not only cut down the beauty of a natural forest, but to remove all the fauna and flora as well., absolute denuding of nature. Total destruction of nature because mankind has over-populated and is burning a planet we call home. Go down that trail and have a look at the management plan and see the destruction youself.

As for the reason given that we have to cut down and burn the forest because we put out forest fires, let me ask: is it mankind that puts out fires or rather wind shifts, rain, topography, etc.? I think we do our best at protecting structures and small initial fires, but Canada this year was not put out by anyone but nature herself.

Once the forest is cut down, it as been shown that the faster burning plants that will replace it. And those plants will have to be continually mowed down too. Perhaps Musk and space X is our future, we can build and over populate Mars without managing a single plant that can burn down the infrastructure we build or create.

The forests on the Earth have managed themselves for 250 million years without any help. The only help or management the forest truly needs today is to be left alone and ultimately protected from the most evasive animal on the planet, you and me and this management plan.

Sincerely,

Michael J Ahles

Bishop