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Dear Regional Forester,  
Jennifer Eberlein:

This is a letter of objection to the Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant impact (FONSI) for the Plumas National Forest, North Fork Forest Recovery Project — responsible official, Acting Forest Supervisor, Richard Hopson.

The Draft Environmental Assessment, (EA) DN, FONSI, and response to comments inadequately addressed our issues with the proposed action, therefore I bring those comments and issues forward here, by reference, to be considered part and parcel of my Objection to the decision on this project.

In addition, I would like my Objection to the Community Protection — Central and West Slope Project decision to be considered part and parcel of this Objection. The generic but important issues are nearly identical, including the need for an EIS, opposition to Forest Plan amendments, and the overwhelmingly negative effects of the Forest Service's mechanical thinning prescription on forest health

and fire/fuels. I include it here by reference but will also send a copy separately.

An analysis of a hthin/underburn would resolve this objection.

Additional rationale for the need to do an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The Plumas National Forest is adopting a new landscape-scale project planning approach, which also requires major Forest Plan amendments. Given the Forest-wide scale and intensity that represents, the two combined amount to a Forest Plan Revision, which by law requires an EIS.

The rationale is as follows:

The Forest Service is currently planning four landscape scale logging projects. They are the North Fork Forest Recovery Project — 166,000 acres, the Community Protect - Central and Westslope Project — 217,721 acres, the Community Protection - Eastside Project — 57, 462 acres, and the Tributaries Forest Recovery Project — 163,248 acres.

Whereas, the size of logging projects has always been around 5,000 acres or less, the total of the four recently proposed projects, is 605,320 acres. This is at least 121 times the size of an average traditional project. Additionally, this cumulative mega-project also proposes to implement high levels of logging that due to important environmental concerns are not currently allowed.

This cumulative Project, lasting at least a decade, will also be free of public participation under the National Environmental Policy Act.

The Forest Service response to this radical departure from past planning and intensity is summed up in the Finding of No Significant Impact section of the Decision Notice. Regarding Project “uncertainty” it states: “The Forest Service has considerable experience with these types of activities.”

But, given the above, it’s clear that, no, it doesn’t. It appears that the Forest Service has crossed it’s fingers and hopes that obfuscating will work:



To sum up, the 605,320-acre Recovery/Protection mega-project, that requires major Forest Plan Amendments, and precludes future public input under NEPA, rises to the level of a Forest Plan Revision, and that, by law, requires an EIS.

Thank you,  
John Preschutti  
Director, Plumas Forest Project