Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/3/2018 5:13:24 PM
First name: Dick
Last name: Artley
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear Ranger Schroyer and selected IDT members,

Please reexamine your decision to spend my tax dollars on logging the Basalt Mountain Salvage and Rehabilitation Project. Do you really believe the majority of the 324 million Americans who own the Aspen-Sopris Ranger District agree that your primary goal for this sale should be to "Provide commercial forest products and/or biomass to local industries while generating salvage revenues to help offset the costs of treatment and reforestation" is valid? Of course you don't. This is the USFS-approved, cut & paste Purpose & Need statement used with ALL (emphasis added) post-fire timber sale EAs and EISs. You know it's the USFS code phrase to hide the fact the real purposes for the timber sale are 1) generate volume to justify the forest's NFTM funding, and 2) serve the USFS's corporate masters. You don't beat around the bush do you? You obviously believe that providing the natural resource extraction corporations with profit opportunities is more important than serving the public by minimizing the natural resource damage this timber sale will inflict. Your IDT members assist you by ignoring the certain public land plunder this sale will cause.

Your budget includes funds for "costs of treatment and reforestation." You lie to the public by inferring the revenues you will receive can be used for the timber sale. Your revenues go to the US Treasury and you know it.

As a retired USFS employee with 31 years in the outfit I know the score. Most USFS line-officers know what must be done to stay near the top of the promotion ladder:

1) meet or exceed your supervisor's volume expectations,
2) spend all NFTM dollars in the same FY they were allocated, and
3) don't be concerned about violating the law to get the wood. Why? They know the DRF will support them and deny all objections out of hand before they read the objection. The DRFs use copy & paste objection rejection language.

Your IDT members have all been obedient. They reject overwhelming best science to serve you with precious volume.

Your specialists will read the science below and realize it's irrefutable evidence that post-fire landscapes must never be logged. However they are afraid of you. They all want to please you. Why not meet with them and agree the science I present below is compelling and you will drop the project. They will admire you.

The USFS leaders in the WO have repeatedly told the public the agency's projects are grounded in and consistent with best science. Don't you think the recommendations of 744 Ph.D. scientists constitute "best science?" Do you really trust a handful of biased IDT members' judgment when it is the antithesis of recommendations of over 700 experts?

Do you think providing corporate profit opportunities that damage natural resources is what the American public wants you to spend their tax dollars on? If you do, you don't understand your constituents. I suggest you seek more training to learn what the public wants from their national forests. They abhor the USFS pock marking their land with cutting units and trashing aquatic resources with so-called "temporary" roads. They want healthy, unharmed amenity resources. You know this.

We both know its automatic for the USFS to log after a fire. Please have the courage the break with the rest and do the right thing.

Ranger Schroyer, you know the entire IDT casts away their land ethics and values at the door each day before entering the Aspen-Sopris District office? They learned it pleases you when they mentally genuflect to the natural resource extraction corporations and simultaneously reject best-science. You could stop this behavior if you wanted.

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From your first day on the job you were all subjected
to sophisticated mind manipulation (brainwashing)
techniques to teach you the USFS way is always right.
What they didn't tell you is "the USFS way" is contrary
to independent science conclusions authored by
experts with no interest in accumulating volume.

Of course you all deny this and think it's silly.

Post-fire habitat is uniquely beneficial to wildlife and must never be disturbed … especially to provide corporate profit. When the hydrophobic soils are turned up by skidders and tractors weighing 35,000 pounds with spinning tracks and wheels the streams turn brown with mud. Some wildlife biologists and soils scientists know this and are strong enough to reject some USFS lies. However they learned it was best to play the game to protect their promotion opportunities. They won't admit they are backhanding future generations of kids who in 100 years will desperately need undeveloped forest land for solitude and to hear live Nature sounds.

Your agency told you repeatedly that fires were "catastrophic." Why? Commercially logging hazardous fuels is the USFS number one excuse to log fully functioning forests. The timber dominated USFS didn't tell you there was nothing more important than providing corporate profit opportunities so they automatically log post-fire habitat. Once again, most of you do what you are told without thinking, but some of you know what's going on and eagerly participated to save your good standing with the agency. Where do you fit in?

You were all told things that aren't true about actions that "restore" the forested ecosystem quite early in your USFS career. After a year or two of this you started to disbelieve the science conclusions and recommendations authored by scientists not affiliated with the USDA. You were responding to your brainwashing the way they wanted.

Most people who have been subject to mind manipulation believe things are good that they previously knew were destructive and bad. They don't ponder why because they don't remember. A successful belief altering program occurs without the subject's knowing.

Brainwash--- a verb

"Brainwashing (also known as mind control, menticide, coercive persuasion, thought control, thought reform, and re-education) is the concept that the human mind can be altered or controlled by certain psychological techniques. Brainwashing is said to reduce its subject's ability to think critically or independently, to allow the introduction of new, unwanted thoughts and ideas into the subject's mind, as well as to change his or her attitudes, values, and beliefs."

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This comment letter contains clearly labeled comments in green font. I am expecting honest, meaningful responses that relate to the topic of each comment. Please do not respond with meaningless, unprofessional "thank you for the comment" responses.

It's clear you and your IDT members don't appreciate or understand the ecological value of a post-fire landscape. You all need to learn the information your agency withholds from you. Therefore, I am including Opposing Views

Attachment #2 below. It contains the research conclusions of hundreds of independent scientists which represent "best science" the agency tells the public will be used to guide their projects. I suggest you respond to each opposing view in the attachments in an honest manner if you want to comply with 40 CFR 1502.9(b).

After reading this compelling, on-target science, most line-officers would agree they had made a mistake and they should find their wood elsewhere. Based on the science below it seems more than reasonable to stop spending the taxpayer's money on this proposed timber sale in spite of the pressure you are receiving to advertise and sell it from your superiors.

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As I said before, I'm saddened that you and the IDT wildlife/fisheries biologists reject the information you learned in college that's presented below. Knowledgeable, caring wildlife biologists, hydrologists and fisheries biologists know a post-fire landscape is the last place that should be logged if maintaining fully functioning aquatic and wildlife habitat conditions is a goal.

Remember these wise words as you read the best science below. John Muir nearly became the first USFS Chief.

"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But He cannot save them from fools."
John Muir

Only a fool would dismiss the science below.

Yes I am lecturing you. You need it.

Ranger Schroyer, please change your ways and give your employees reasons to admire and respect you. They will read the information below and wonder why you are even considering spending taxpayer's dollars on a post-fire timber sale. Telling the public you need to "Provide commercial forest products and/or biomass to local industries" is insane and shows you care more about corporate profit than community stability

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Extreme Heat Creates Hydrophobic Soils that
are so Fragile and Extremely Erosive they
must Never, Ever be Disturbed

The public depends on your aquatic specialists to speak up to protect the resources that are their responsibility. Looking the other way and ignoring the aquatic damage that logging a post-fire landscape will cause is something a professional would not do. Ranger Schroyer, please discuss this with these specialists. You know protecting aquatic habitat and water quality is orders of magnitude more important than "Providing commercial forest products and/or biomass to local industries."

Comment: In 2000, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service published an article titled Soil Quality Resource Concerns: Hydrophobicity. It was authored by employees working for the USDA NRCS Soil Quality Institute.

Link to article: http://extension.illinois.edu/soil/sq_info/hydro.pdf

Here's an excerpt of their report:

"Hydrophobic soils repel water and reduce the amount of water infiltration. Breaking up the water repellent hydrophobic soil cap increases erosion and much of the fertile topsoil layer is lost during precipitation events. The increased sediment-laden runoff carries large amounts of sediment that can spread over lower lying areas,

clog stream channels, and lower water quality."

After reading this information, reasonable people would conclude allowing skidders and tractors weighing 15 tons with spinning wheels and tracks to traverse hydrophobic soils will be an aquatic disaster.

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Hundreds of Experts in the Biological Sciences
Stress the Importance of Never Disturbing
ANY Post-fire Landscape

Anyone…….. I repeat, anyone who claims to be a biologist, archaeologist, soils scientist, recreation specialist, or hydrologist who reads the information below and still chooses to still be an IDT member helping to prepare this EA for this post-fire salvage timber sale should be ashamed.

I reference 3 letters below. The IDT members who will prepare the NEPA document for this sale have the education and experience to understand these letters. I am depending on these IDT professionals to act accordingly.

Post-Fire Science Letter #1
In 2006, 540 independent Ph.D. scientists not associated with the USDA signed a letter to the United States Congress.

Here are excerpts from the letter:

"Although logging and replanting may seem like a reasonable way to clean up and restore forests after disturbances like wildland fires, such activity would actually slow the natural recovery of forests and of streams and creatures within them.'

"Many scientist-reviewed studies and syntheses (please see the selected citations appended to this letter) have recently come to this conclusion. For example, no substantive evidence supports the idea that fire-adapted forests might be improved by logging after a fire. In fact, many carefully conducted studies have concluded just the opposite. Most plants and animals in these forests are adapted to periodic fires and other natural disturbances. They have a remarkable way of recovering - literally rising from the ashes - because they have evolved with and even depend upon fire."

"In testimony before the House Subcommittee on Resources (November 10, 2005), eminent forest ecologist and University of Washington Professor Jerry Franklin noted that logging dead trees often has greater negative impacts than logging of live trees. He concluded that "timber salvage is most appropriately viewed as a 'tax' on ecological recovery." Beyond those concerns, post-disturbance logging often intensifies the potential severity of future fires by concentrating the slash from logging at or near the ground. Rather than leaving plant material standing - and providing perching, nesting, and feeding sites for wildlife - such logging abruptly moves the material to the ground. Most of this material would naturally fall to the ground, adding important supplies of nutrients and energy to the forest floor and structure in the form of woody debris to stream channels. But this naturally happens over decades, not in the relatively short time associated with a logging operation."

Here are 3 links to the full text of this August 1, 2006 letter to members of Congress:
http://earthjustice.org/sites/default/files/library/signon/letter-from-over-540-scientists.pdf
https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2006/08/01/18293630.php

Here are the 540 scientists who signed letter #1. Who on your IDT has the credentials to say they are wrong?

Abbott, Isabella A. Ph.D., Paul Alaback, Ph.D., William S. Alverson, Ph.D., Richard F. Ambrose, Ph.D., Loren

Ammerman, Ph.D., James P. Amon, Ph.D., Thomas H. Anderson, Ph.D., William D. Anderson, Jr., Ph.D., Robert Angus, Ph.D., Joseph E. Armstrong, Ph.D., Richard G. Baker, Ph. D., Richard H. Baker, Ph.D., William L. Baker, Ph.D., Bruce G. Baldwin, Ph.D., Raymond Barbehenn, Ph.D., Linda Sue Barnes, Ph.D., Frank Barnwell, Ph.D., James Barron, Ph.D., Paul E. Bartelt, Ph.D., Andrew M. Barton, Ph.D., Carol J. Baskauf, Ph.D., Peter Bednekoff Ph. D., Paul Beier, Ph.D., Michael A. Bell, Ph.D., Craig W. Benkman, Ph.D., David H. Benzing, Ph.D., May R. Berenbaum, Ph.D., David J. Berg, Ph.D., Brad Bergstrom, Ph.D., Carolyn Bergstrom, Ph.D., Robert L. Beschta, Ph.D., Alfred Beulig, Ph.D., Charles Birkeland, Ph.D., John G. Bishop, Ph.D., David E. Blockstein, Ph.D., Jessica Blois Ph.D., Michael H. Blust, Ph.D., Jane H. Bock, Ph.D., P. Dee Boersma, Ph.D., Stephanie Bohlman, Ph.D., Stephen K. Boss, Ph.D., Reed Bowman, Ph.D., Richard L. Boyce, Ph.D., David Barton Bray, Ph.D., Richard A. Bradley, Ph.D., Steven W. Brewer, Ph.D., Martin R. Brittan, Ph.D., William R. Bromer, Ph.D., Lincoln P. Brower, Ph.D., David Brown, Ph.D., Greg Brown, Ph.D., Ken Brown, Ph.D., Milford Brown, Ph.D., Deborah Buitron, Ph.D., Abel Bult-Ito, Ph.D., Tom Bultman, Ph.D., Robyn J. Burnham, Ph.D., Ramona J. Butz Ph.D, James Byers, Ph.D., Bernard H. Byrnes, Ph.D., Diane Campbell, Ph.D., Philip D. Cantino, Ph.D., Ken Carloni, Ph.D., John L. Carr, Ph.D., C. Ronald Carroll, Ph.D., Georgia Bobb Carson, Ph.D., Kefyn M. Catley, Ph.D., Christopher Chabot, Ph.D., Kai M. A. Chan, Ph.D., F. Stuart Chapin, III, Ph.D., Robin L. Chazdon, Ph.D., Anita F. Cholewa, Ph.D., David Christophel, Ph.D., Barbara J. Clement, Ph.D., Robert C. Clover, Ph.D., Robert Coats, Ph.D., Coblentz, Ph.D., Martin L. Cody, Ph.D., William J. Cohen, Ph.D., Robert K. Colwell, Ph.D., Marty Condon, Ph.D., Laura E. Conkey, Ph.D., Ian M. Cooke, Ph.D., Clay E. Corbin, Ph.D., John Costello, Ph.D., Bruce C. Cowell, Ph.D., Lance Craighead, Ph.D., T. Patrick Culbert, Ph.D., David A. Culver, Ph.D., Amanda Curtin, Ph.D., Ana Davidson, Ph.D., Paul Dayton, Ph.D., Amrita G. de Soyza, Ph.D., James E. Deacon, Ph.D., D. Robert Deal, Ph.D., Kelly Decker, Ph.D., Kevin J. Delaney, Ph.D., Dominick A. DellaSala, Ph.D., DeLuca, Ph.D., Saara J. DeWalt, Ph.D., David S. Dobkin, Ph.D., Richard J. Douglass, Ph.D., Jean Dubach, Ph.D., Tom Dudley, Ph.D., Scot Duncan, Ph.D., Peter W. Dunwiddie, Ph.D.,Phillip Dustan, Ph.D.,L. L. Eberhardt, Ph.D.,Vincent M. Eckhart, Ph.D., Patrick M. Eggleston, Ph.D., William R. Engels, Ph.D., J.H. Epler, Ph.D., Jonathan P. Evans, Ph.D., Margaret Evans, Ph.D., Douglas Eveleigh, Ph.D., Christopher Farmer, Ph.D., Melissa K. Fierke, Ph.D., Thomas L. Fleischner, Ph.D., Erica Fleishman, Ph.D., R. Wills Flowers, Ph.D., George W. Folkerts, Ph.D., Joseph Fortier, Ph.D., Elizabeth A. Forys, Ph.D, Brian Foster, Ph.D., Lee E. Frelich, Ph.D., Terrence J. Frest, Ph.D., Chris Frissell, Ph.D., Jed Fuhrman, Ph.D., Alder Fuller, Ph.D., George J. Gamboa, Ph.D., Timothy J. Gaudin, Ph.D., Thomas M. Gehring, Ph.D., Donald Geiger, S.M., Ph.D., Bob Gillespie, Ph.D., Frank S. Gilliam, Ph.D., Rosanna Giordano, Ph.D., Travis C. Glenn, Ph.D., Michale Glennon, Ph.D., Enrique Gomezdelcampo, Ph.D., David L. Gorchov, Ph.D., Steven Green, Ph.D., Gary K. Greer, Ph.D., Carole S. Griffiths, Ph.D., John S. Gunn, Ph.D., James Haas, Ph.D., Stacey Halpern, Ph.D., Steven Hamburg, Ph.D., Michael Hamilton, Ph.D., Alexander H. Harcourt, Ph.D., James A. Harding, Ph.D., Annita Harlan, Ph.D., Marilyn M. Harlin, Ph.D., David D. Hart, Ph.D., John Harte, Ph.D., Mary Ellen Harte, Ph. D., David Hastings, Ph.D., Robert T. Heath, Ph.D., Brooke Parry Hecht, Ph.D., Ken R. Helms, Ph.D., Richard T. Holmes, Ph.D., Marcel Holyoak, Ph.D., Michael H. Horn, Ph.D., Thomas R. Horton, Ph.D., G.F. Hrusa, Ph.D., Robert Huber, Ph.D., Jarvis E. Hudson, Ph.D., Robert M. Hughes, Ph.D., Richard Hutto, Ph.D., G. J. Ikenberry, Ph.D., Timothy Ingalsbee, Ph.D., Haruhiko Itagaki, Ph.D., Daniel H. Janzen, Ph.D., Douglas L. Jeffries, Ph.D., David G. Jenkins, Ph.D., Bart R. Johnson, Ph.D., Laura E. Jones, Ph.D., James R. Karr, Ph.D., Sterling C. Keeley, Ph.D., Barbara A. Knuth, Ph.D., Walter D. Koenig, Ph.D., Sally Gregory Kohlstedt, Ph.D., Loraine U. Kohorn, Ph.D., Julie E. Korb, Ph.D., Fred Kraus, Ph.D., Shawn Kuchta, Ph.D., Melinda Laituri, Ph.D., Rick Landenberger, Ph.D., Patrick Leacock, Ph.D., Christopher A. Lepczyk, Ph.D., Simon Levin, Ph.D., Joyce N. Levine, PhD, William Z. Lidicker, Jr., Ph.D., Gene E. Likens, Ph.D., Creighton M. Litton, Ph.D., Dale R. Lockwood, Ph.D., John P. Loegering, Ph.D., Kathleen LoGiudice, Ph.D., Marilyn D. Loveless, Ph.D., Bruce Lyon, Ph.D., William Mackay, Ph. D., Jason MacKenzie, Ph.D., Julie Maier, Ph.D., Martin B. Main, Ph.D., Julin Maloof, Ph.D., Robert E. Marra, Ph.D., Laura Marx, Ph.D., John M. Marzluff, Ph.D., Glenn Matlack, Ph.D., Brady J. Mattsson, Ph.D., William W. Mautz, Ph.D., Ph.D., Brian McCarthy, Ph.D., Charles A. McClaugherty, Ph.D., Dale A. McCullough, Ph.D., Mara A. McDonald, Ph.D., William H. McDowell, Ph.D., Amy B. McEuen, Ph.D., Daniel J. McGarvey Ph.D., Patrick McGuire, Ph.D., William O. McLarney, Ph.D., K. W. McLeod, Ph.D., Jack D. McMillen, Ph.D., Scott McNaught, Ph.D., Michael J. Medler, Ph.D., Robert J. Meese, Ph.D., Gary K. Meffe, Ph.D., Robert W. Merriam, Ph.D., J.P. Michaud, Ph.D., Anne Millhollen, Ph.D., Arlee Montalvo, Ph.D., Richard R. Montanucci, Ph.D., Peter B. Moyle, Ph.D., P.H. Mulder, Ph.D., Dennis D. Murphy, Ph.D., K. Greg Murray, Ph.D., Michael P.

Murray, Ph.D., Philip Myers, Ph.D., Dhruba Naug, Ph.D., William D. Newmark, Ph.D., Barry R. Noon, Ph.D., Elaine Norman, Ph.D., Elliott A. Norse, Ph.D., Gretchen North, Ph.D., Reed Noss, Ph.D., Gary Nuechterlein, Ph.D., Mary O'Brien, Ph.D., Kathleen O'Reilly, Ph.D., Dennis C. Odion, Ph.D., Erin O'Doherty, Ph.D., Richard R. Old, Ph.D., Guy W. Oliver, Ph.D., Gordon H. Orians, Ph.D., John A. Osborne, Ph.D., Richard S. Ostfeld, Ph.D., A. O. Pacheco, Ph.D., Joel E. Pagel, Ph.D., Lydia C. Pan, Ph.D., Michael Parke, Ph.D., Michael S. Parker, Ph.D., David F. Parkhurst, Ph.D., Arthur Dean Partridge, Ph.D. , Gustav Paulay, Ph.D., Timothy A. Pearce, Ph.D., James L. Pease, Ph.D., J. Akers Pence, Ph.D., David Perry, Ph.D., Kimberly A. Peters, Ph.D., F. A. Pinkham, Ph.D., Jay Pitocchelli, Ph.D., J. Dan Pittillo, Ph.D., Mechthild Pohlschroder, Ph.D., Ellen Popodi, Ph.D., Jennifer E. Price, Ph.D., Anne Pusey, Ph.D., Robert Michael Pyle, Ph.D., G. S. Rahi, Ph.D., Jan A. Randall, Ph.D., Brenda Rashleigh, Ph.D., Richard J. Reiner, Ph.D., Karl J. Reinhard, Ph.D., Bradford G. Rence, Ph.D., Ann F. Rhoads, Ph.D., Cecil F. Rich, Ph.D., David I. Richard, Ph.D., Lisa Richardson-Calfee, Ph.D., Dan L. Richter, Ph.D., Brett R. Riddle, Ph.D., Catherine Riseng, Ph.D., David W. Roberts, Ph.D., Carlton L. Rockett, Ph.D., Gary W. Roemer, Ph.D., William Rogers, Ph.D., Sievert Rohwer, Ph.D., Thomas P. Rooney, Ph.D., Stephen T. Ross, Ph.D., John T. Rotenberry, Ph.D., Steve Rothenberger, Ph.D., Betsie B. Rothermel, Ph.D., Stephen I. Rothstein, Ph.D., Barbara A. ("Bitty") Roy, Ph.D., Suzanne M. Royer, Ph.D., Cristina Rumbaitis del Rio, Ph.D., James Runkle, Ph.D., Sam Rushforth, Ph.D., James R. Ruzycki, Ph.D., Carl Safina, Ph.D., D. Scott Samuels, Ph.D., Sahotra Sarkar, Ph.D., Raymond A. Saumure, Ph.D., Melissa Savage, Ph.D., John F. Schalles, Ph.D., Joseph R. Schiller, Ph.D., Andrew Schnabel, Ph.D., Tania Schoennagel, Ph.D., Robert L. Schooley, Ph.D., Tim Seastedt, Ph.D., Jack A. Seilheimer, Ph.D., Semken, Ph.D., Ruth G. Shaw, Ph.D., Kathleen L. Shea, Ph.D., Brian R. Shmaefsky, Ph.D., George Sideris, Ph.D., Miles R. Silman, Ph.D., Tony Silvaggio, Ph.D., Rebecca Simmons, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Department of Biology University of Carol Skinner, Ph.D., Diane E. Sklensky, Ph.D., Stephen A. Skrabal, Ph.D., Shawn Smallwood, Ph.D., Bryce E. Smith, Ph.D., David L. Smith, Ph.D., Gerald Smith, Ph.D., Jennifer Smith, Ph.D., Sherilyn G. F. Smith, Ph.D., Erica Smithwick, Ph.D., Paul Sneed, Ph.D., Anthony Snider, Ph.D., Eric B. Snyder, Ph.D., Tex A. Sordahl, Ph.D., Wayne D. Spencer, Ph.D., Timothy P. Spira, Ph.D., James R. Spotila, Ph.D., Richard Steiner, Ph.D., Robert Stiles, Ph.D., Glenn R. Stewart, Ph.D., Paul M. Stewart, Ph.D., Richard Strathmann, Ph.D., James R. Strittholt, Ph.D., Mel Sunquist, Ph.D., Samuel S. Sweet, Ph.D., Michael C. Swift, Ph.D., William A. Szelistowski, Ph.D., Robert Tafanelli, Ph.D., David Tallmon, Ph.D., David Winship Taylor, Ph.D., Stephen T. Tettelbach, Ph.D., Guy A. Thompson, Jr., Ph.D., Tamara Ticktin, Ph.D., Brian N. Tissot, Ph.D., A. Spencer Tomb, Ph.D., David W. Tonkyn, Ph.D., Vicki Tripoli, Ph.D., Stephen C. Trombulak, Ph.D., William J. Trush, Ph.D., Robin Tyser, Ph.D., Michael Van Clef, Ph.D., Thomas T. Veblen, Ph.D., Kristin Vessey, Ph. D., Frank von Hippel, Ph.D., Floyd Waddle, Ph.D., Robert O. Wagner, Ph.D., D. Alexander Wait, Ph.D., Don Waller, Ph.D., B. Michael Walton, Ph.D., Richard T. Ward, Ph.D., James H. Warner, Ph.D., Vicki Watson, Ph.D., Beth Wee, Ph.D., Judith S. Weis, Ph.D., Raymond R. White, Ph.D., Walter G. Whitford, Ph.D., Sue Wick, Ph.D., Jack E. Williams, Ph.D., Jerry Woolpy, Ph.D., J. Timothy Wootton Ph.D., Ruth D. Yanai, Ph.D., and Thomas M. Yuill, Ph.D.

Which of your IDT members have the qualifications that gives them the authority to reject this science?

The next 2 letters were sent to the U.S. Senate and President Obama. They are signed by 253 independent Ph.D. scientists who recommend never logging a post-fire landscape.

Letter #1 was sent in September 2015

Here are excerpts from this letter.

"Post-fire conditions also serve as a refuge for rare and imperiled wildlife species that depend upon the unique habitat features created by intense fire. These include an abundance of standing dead trees, or "snags," which provide nesting and foraging habitat for woodpeckers and many other plant and wildlife species responsible for the rejuvenation of a forest after fire.

The post-fire environment is rich in patches of native flowering shrubs that replenish soil nitrogen and attract a

diverse bounty of beneficial insects that aid in pollination after fire. Small mammals find excellent habitat in the shrubs and downed logs, providing food for foraging spotted owls. Deer and elk browse on post-fire shrubs and natural conifer regeneration. Bears eat and disperse berries and conifer seeds often found in substantial quantities after intense fire, and morel mushrooms, prized by many Americans, spring from ashes in the most severely burned forest patches.

This post-fire renewal, known as "complex early seral forest," or "snag forest," is quite simply some of the best wildlife habitat in forests, and is an essential stage of natural processes that eventually become old-growth forests over time. This unique habitat is not mimicked by clearcutting, as the legislation incorrectly suggests. Moreover, it is the least protected of all forest habitat types, and is often as rare, or rarer, than old-growth forest, due to extensive fire suppression and damaging forest management practices such as those encouraged by this legislation. Much of the current scientific information on the ecological importance of post-fire habitat can be found in several excellent videos, including ways for the public to co-exist with fires burning safely in the backcountry.

After a fire, the new forest is particularly vulnerable to logging disturbances that can set back the forest renewal process for decades. Post-fire logging has been shown to eliminate habitat for many bird species that depend on snags, compact soils, remove biological legacies (snags and downed logs) that are essential in supporting new forest growth, and spread invasive species that outcompete native vegetation and, in some cases, increase the flammability of the new forest." (pages 1 and 2)

Here's the link to the full text of letter #1:
http://johnmuirproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Final2015ScientistLetterOpposingLoggingBills.pdf

Letter #2 was sent in November 2016

Here are excerpts from this letter.

"A similar logging measure now being actively circulated in the U.S. Senate by Senators Crapo (R-ID), Murkowski (R-AK), and Wyden (D-OR), the "Wildfire Budgeting, Response, and Forest Management Act of 2016," would override and severely weaken federal environmental laws pertaining to analysis and disclosure of adverse environmental impacts, and public participation in forest management decisions. The legislation would increase logging of biologically rich post-fire habitat, mature forests and old-growth trees and remove most of the structure a forest ecosystem needs to properly function."

"Though it may seem to some laypersons that a post-fire landscape is a catastrophe, numerous scientific studies tell us that even in the patches where forest fires burn most intensely, the resulting wildlife habitats are among the most ecologically rich and diverse on western forestlands and are essential to support the full range of forest biodiversity."

Here's the link to the full text of the letter:
http://www.californiachaparral.org/images/Forest_5_Scientist_letter_opposing_logging_bills_Nov2016.pdf

Here are the 253 scientists who signed both letters. Who on your IDT has the credentials to say they are wrong?

Ronald Abrams, Ph.D.
Dru Associates, Inc.
Glen Cove, NYPaul Alaback, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Forest Ecology
Univ. of MontanaJohn Alcock, Ph.D.

Regents Professor Emeritus
Arizona State UniversityPatrick Alexander, Ph.D.
New Mexico State University, Biology
David Allen, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Biology
Middlebury CollegePeter Alpert, Ph.D.
Professor
University of Massachusetts, AmherstWilliam Anderson, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
Grice Marine Biological LaboratoryW. Scott Armbruster, Ph.D.
Principal Research Scientist
University of Alaska Fairbanks
Peter Auster, Ph.D.
Research Professor Emeritus
University of ConnecticutPeter Bahls, M.S.
Executive Director, Salmon Biologist
Northwest Watershed InstituteRichard Baker, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
University of IowaWilliam Baker, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
University of Wyoming
Bruce Baldwin, Ph.D.
Professor of Integrative Biology
University of CaliforniaRandy Bangert, Ph.D., Ecologist
Cortez, COJesse Barber, Ph.D.
Asst. Professor of Biology
Boise State UniversityLinda Sue Barnes, Ph.D.
Prof. Emeritus of Botany
Methodist University
Roger Barry, Ph.D.
Distinguished Professor Emeritus
Univ. of Colo., Natl. Snow & Ice Data Ctr.Paul Bartelt, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Waldorf CollegeColden Baxter, Ph.D.
Stream Ecology Center
Idaho State UniversityElizabeth Beck, M.S.
Edmonton, Alberta
Craig Benkman, Ph.D.
Professor of Zoology & Physiology
University of WyomingDavid Berg, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Miami UniversityRobert Beschta, Ph.D.
Em. Prof. of Forest Ecosystems and Society
Oregon State UniversityRichard Bierregaard, Ph.D.
Research Associate
The Acad. of Natural Sci of Drexel Univ.
Harvey Blankespoor, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus of Biology
Hope CollegeKatherine Bode, M.A.
Senior Botanist
Avila and Assoc. Consulting EngineersBrian Bodenbender, Ph.D.

Chair, Geological and Env.Sciences
Hope CollegeJim Boone, Ph.D.
Senior Scientist
Desert Wildlife Consultants, LLC
Elizabeth Braker, Ph.D.
Professor of Biology
Occidental CollegeJohn Bremer, MBA
Washington Native Plant SocietyHolger Brix, Ph.D.
Asst. Researcher
University of CaliforniaJohn Browne
Conservation Committee
WA Native Plant Society
Peter Brussard, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus
University of Nevada, RenoBrian Buma, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Forest
Ecosystem Ecology
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Comment: Ranger Schroyer, you have just read excerpts from 1) a 2006 letter to Congress signed by 540 Ph.D. independent biological scientists, and 2) two recent letters sent to Congress and President Obama signed by 253 Ph.D. independent biological scientists. Each letter includes indisputable evidence explaining why a post-fire landscape must remain intact and unlogged. Here are short excerpts from each letter:

Letter #1-"Many scientist-reviewed studies and syntheses (please see the selected citations appended to this letter) have recently come to this conclusion. For example, no substantive evidence supports the idea that fire-adapted forests might be improved by logging after a fire. In fact, many carefully conducted studies have concluded just the opposite. Most plants and animals in these forests are adapted to periodic fires and other natural disturbances. They have a remarkable way of recovering - literally rising from the ashes - because they have evolved with and even depend upon fire." (page 1, paragraph 3)

Letters #2 and #3- "After a fire, the new forest is particularly vulnerable to logging disturbances that can set back the forest renewal process for decades. Post-fire logging has been shown to eliminate habitat for many bird species that depend on snags, compact soils, remove biological legacies (snags and downed logs) that are essential in supporting new forest growth, and spread invasive species that outcompete native vegetation and, in some cases, increase the flammability of the new forest." (page 2, paragraph 2))

Why do you propose a timber sale that is totally inconsistent with this science?

Comment: Ranger Schroyer, you reject the advice of hundreds of experts and instead accept the recommendations of your timber employees on the IDT to log this unique and sensitive post-fire landscape. Their jobs depend on timber harvest. Please explain your reasons for ignoring the knowledge of 774 experts and accept the contradictory advice of several biased USFS employees. Keep in mind USFS leaders have been telling the public agency projects are all grounded in "best science." How will you explain why you should be the exception?

I suggest you give your response to this comment some thought because the attorney(s) for the plaintiffs may address this comment.

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USFS Associate Chief Sally Collins describes how
timber being harvested from national forest land is
"usually a byproduct of forest health projects."

Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins had this to say about why the Forest Service harvests timber. Forest health encompasses all natural resources in the forest. A forest with healthy conifer trees and turbid water in the streams is not healthy.

Here is her 2003 statement:

"our focus today in the Forest Service is no longer on logging and road-building. In the last 5 years, for example, we decommissioned 14 miles of road for every mile of road added to our forest road system. And where we do cut timber, it is usually a byproduct of forest health projects-like cutting 14-inch white fir to protect giant sequoia groves."

from a speech by Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins
"Changing Public Land Uses: A Tale of Two Debates"
Outdoor Writers Association of America, 76th Annual Conference
Columbia, MO-June 17, 2003
https://www.fs.fed.us/speeches/changing-public-land-uses-tale-two-debates

Here is her 2005 statement:

"Post-World War II, we entered a new period characterized by timber production. From the 1960s to the 1980s, every administration, with strong congressional support, called for more timber harvest from the national forests, with the goal of replacing the depleted stocks of private and state timber as a result of the war effort. We measured success largely in terms of producing timber and providing multiple uses, including outdoor recreation and fish and wildlife.

In the early 1990s, that changed again. Today, we're in a new period focused primarily on ecological restoration and recreation. Maybe more than ever before, we are focusing on delivering values and services like clean air and water, scenic beauty, habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation. Not only do Americans

want these things from their national forests, but this shift is also essential to cope with some huge threats to the sustainability of these forests." (pp 8-9)

Forest Service Associate Chief Sally Collins
"The Future of Partnering with the Forest Service"
A speech presented at the Annual Meeting of the
National Association of Conservation Districts
Atlanta, GA-February 8, 2005
http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/NACDspeech.pdf

Comment #: In 2003 USFS Associate Chief Sally Collins told the public:

"where we do cut timber, it is usually a byproduct of forest health projects."

In 2005 she told the public:

"From the 1960s to the 1980s, every administration, with strong congressional support, called for more timber harvest from the national forests."

"In the early 1990s, that changed again. Today, we're in a new period focused primarily on ecological restoration and recreation. Maybe more than ever before, we are focusing on delivering values and services like clean air and water, scenic beauty, habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation."

Your P&N tells the public you are logging this fire salvage sale because
"local and regional businesses exist that depend on a supply of forest products." This is not a forest health project is it?

Link to the 2003 statement:
https://www.fs.fed.us/speeches/changing-public-land-uses-tale-two-debates

Link to the 2005 statement: http://www.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/library/NACDspeech.pdf

The Purpose & Need says this sale is needed to "Provide commercial forest products and/or biomass to local industries." It says nothing about the need to enhance "forest health." Clearly, the reason for the Basalt timber sale is to produce timber and provide corporate profit opportunities. This is not consistent with Ms. Collins' statement. Why is this timber sale exempt from "today's focus on "delivering values and services like clean air and water, scenic beauty, habitat for wildlife, and opportunities for outdoor recreation"?
---
You obediently use every USFS lie in the book to justify trashing unique, post-fire wildlife habitat to assure corporate profit.

Comment: At page 3 your P&N says one reason for logging the sale is to::

"Provide increased public safety along road corridors by reducing the risks associated with being struck by falling trees, and by keeping travel corridors open for public use."

A real professional would cut the leaners that might fall and strike the road and not inflict the logging damage everywhere else.
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Conclusion
After reading the science above, even a lay person with no training or experience in natural resource

management would quickly conclude that post-fire areas are the last (emphasis added) places that should be considered for timber harvest.

There is no legitimate reason to log these post-fire landscapes. Please concentrate your harvesting activity in green stands and leave the uniquely valuable post-fire areas alone. I ask you to stop spending taxpayer's money on this sale.

Finally, there is a good chance you will ignore these comments and the best science quoted in them and forge ahead with this tragic project to assure you get your precious volume. Sadly, your IDT resource specialists will help you. Then they will merrily skip home after work thinking they served the Americans who provide the tax dollars for their salaries.

The USFS has fixed the process in its favor against the public. You know this and are tricking the public in the agency-approved way. They will explore reasons why well-meaning, ethical people who choose to work for the USFS become clueless and obedient to what many believe is a rogue agency. Read about it here: https://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2005/02/18/17224531.php

Sincerely,

Dick Artley (retired forest planner from the Nez Perce National Forest, Idaho)
Grangeville, Idaho 83530
da99333@gmail.com

Finally, USFS employees who are not afraid to think outside the agency box, should read this November 22, 2018 Counterpunch article that explains why industrial forest science's profit-over-all ethic has driven the USFS's forest management policy for many decades.

https://www.counterpunch.org/2018/11/22/industrial-forest-science-industrys-bitch/