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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Last week I visited this timber sale for the first time in a little over a year. I was thrilled to return near a place I had visited before when I learned that the area was up for sale. I was thrilled not because of the sale, but because of the memories that were brought up for me in this truly special stand of forest. I had already had really fantastic experiences there and was excited to create more. The forest there is really a happy place for me. When I get arrive there my stress and worries are put on hold. It allows me to relax and process, so that when I leave I feel more confident about addressing the stresses of life. There are many public lands forests, but there are not many that are home to such diversity in the Western Cascades. I saw Douglas Fir, Western Hemlock, Western Red Cedar in nearly equal numbers; not something you see everyday. I measured some trees using a Diameter tape and found that some trees were 80 inches in Diameter! Incredible! Most of the larger trees were in the 55-65 inch range. Even if these big trees were to be saved, the surrounding trees would never be able to grow to those sizes. Seeing large trees is incredible because of their shear size and age, but their most important role now is help us sequester carbon and protect from climate change! They do this on top of providing habitat for the rest of forest. Meeting quotas cannot be as important as protecting our way of life. You see it in so many industries, especially on private timberland, so why not save the public timberland?

I could go on about my experience there in Unit 1970 and Unit 1300, but just like you I have a life and job. This place is special and I know there are more Units similar in the same sale. I plan to visit those as well. I highly encourage the Forest Service, a PUBLIC INTEREST AGENCY, to listen to the public and continue with Alternative 3-no regeneration harvest and no logging in stands over 80 years old. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Bernard Cowen