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I am writing to urge you to once again cancel this project. There is no reason to log old growth or large trees in the area. The No Action Alternative is the only choice here. It must include a modification to end the public closure on root rot areas but retain warning signs. Please also black out the markings and remove the flagging.

There is no justification to commercially log old growth. If there is a tree hazard problem, you already possess the ability to assess and remove specific trees. There is no reason to take them all. Old growth decays and dies, it is part of the process that should be left alone unless a specific tree might negatively affect public safety. Old trees that are decaying make excellent homes for wildlife, one of the reasons Walton Lake is such a popular area. Do not destroy this vital habitat for a quick buck for the timber giants.

Popular recreation sites should not be the location for commercial logging. You have the ability to remove hazard trees. This is one of the most popular areas in the Ochoco National Forest. It should not be destroyed. You might find that though much of the public is unaware of this project, they will be painfully and angrily aware if you go through with it, which will destroy public trust.

Clearcutting (sanitation harvest) is an egregious felony to in tact forests so necessary to carbon stores.
(attachment 1) Have you studied the cumulative effects of this type of work in the light of climate change?

Under NFMA you are held to Forest Plan standards, no amendments should be used to get around the contract you made with the American public. You are bound to protect wildlife habitat and recreational values in this area. Logging to reduce root rot does not uphold the purpose and need to maintain a natural outdoor setting for recreation. Root rot happens. Signage to warn visitors of the hazards should be retained to protect the public. As we all get older we rot a bit. Let the forest do its thing and become a part of future soil and carbon stores. This is a beautiful place and should remain so there is no justification to create an unsightly clearcut scar.

We have already lost many songbirds who rely on old growth forests to survive. Don't destroy their habitat. The old snags and dying trees are home to pileated woodpeckers, and flickers. Black bears love to eat the bugs and beetles living in dying trees. And a host of ungulates and small mammals enjoy the hiding and thermal cover these old forests provide.

A sale like this that affects the recreational quality of this popular area calls for an Environmental Impact Statement with heavy and transparent outreach to the Portland and Eugene communities that use this recreation area.

Thanks for considering my comments.