

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2021 2:17:48 AM

First name: Eric

Last name: Janes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support the Dolores Ranger District's proposed combination of actions that include logging ponderosa pines, planting trees where appropriate, and conducting prescribed burns in an area covering 22,346 acres north of Dolores. I feel that I have a good understanding of this project because I have been involved in several very informative stakeholder meetings which included the 2020 scoping phase, and explanations provided by Forest Service staff and management since the February 10, 2021 release of the Draft EA for public comment. Regarding the concerns of Dolores town residents about the increased frequency of logging trucks, up to an average of nine load truck/day, I would suggest the USFS clarify in the next stage of NEPA compliance to what degree would possible log truck transport going north to Montrose possibly offset some of the higher estimates on number of log loads going through Dolores? My impression is that there may be bids on the timber from companies in Montrose County. I believe that the proposed action will significantly improve the forest resilience to catastrophic wildfire, insects and disease problems, so that we will have a much healthier forest going forward after project completion. This outcome has to be good news for local recreation users and businesses in the Dolores and Cortez area whose sales are somewhat dependent on recreation use of the forest.

I commend the Dolores Ranger District for building in provisions to the project that will minimize the disruption and short-term closures of some of the trails and use areas in Boggy Draw. These project mitigations even include some "no-snowplow" assurances for FSR 527 from a northerly junction point down to a trailhead on the southside of Boggy Draw so that cross-country skiers are accommodated. Foresters and other specialists working with flora and fauna of fire-dependent forests like ponderosa pine have known for over 60 years that there are ecological processes occurring in all these forests, which if poorly understood and not managed, can often lead to undesirable ecological conditions, and can decrease the forest's ability to survive large scale change agents, such as disease and insects, drought, and catastrophic crown fire. This project has everything needed to address this problem in the project area. By implementing the proposed actions, my belief is that a more regulated forest will be a more resilient forest. I commend the Forest and the Dolores Ranger District Ranger, timber staff and NEPA specialists for a job well done.