

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/27/2021 7:00:00 AM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to voice opinions and thoughts. I am very familiar with the South Fork Mt. area in the southern part of Six Rivers National Forest. As we all know, 160,000 acres burnt in the Six Rivers during the August Complex. What we don't think about is the area that didn't burn. Now, what we need to do is prepare for the next fire and fires that could happen in years to come. Based off of your map, I would say that 75% or more of the proposed area on South Fork Mt. has burned in the last 10 years or less. As we all know, this is a long straight ridge with high elevations. We have had numerous fires start on this ridge due to lightning strikes. This ridge give us a great opportunity to make a fire break to protect structures and also forest lands. Over 100 years ago a majority of this ridge was oak wood lands. Now, it is over taken by conifers. These conifers are what is fueling our fires and causing hazards along our roadways now. After the fires come through underbrush is coming back rapidly which is causing fuel for fires.

What I would like to see done along this ridge is a couple things. I will break them down. First is the removal of hazardous trees. These are the trees that are black from previous fires and that are dead now or dying. The large dead snags that could be hit by lightning and start another fire or fall on someone need to come down. I would like to see this done 500' off of both sides of the road. Why 500'? That would be enough room to use this as a fire break but also enough room to return this land back to the way it was, open fields with oaks. This area could also be burned frequently on purpose. Controlled fire is good for our environment if done correctly. The second part of this would be the removal of most or all conifers in that 500' area. If you have traveled that road you will see that almost all of the conifers along this proposed area that are still alive are mature. They are at a harvestable age. This would be the time to remove them before they burn. Once removed, the areas could be replanted with native oaks. This would also provide a great food source for wildlife. My third point on this proposed area is the road itself. So from the north and all the way from Highway 299 the road is paved. The pavement even goes down to the town of Mad River. Headed south across 36 the pavement continues. The pavement continues all the way to basically Pickett Peak. From there south the road is horrible. If you go another 10 miles south you hit pavement again. From there south its paved all the way to highway 36 again (minus a few spots). This road is the main break on top. It provides access for residents, medical, fire fighters, forest service and just a great road to travel to view our beautiful forest land. Why do we have a 10 mile stretch that is tough to travel on in the summer time in a four wheel drive vehicle? It makes no sense. This 10 mile stretch you can not get equipment down to fight a fire or to take equipment south to a fire. If you are going to go in this area and remove the hazardous trees to make this safer for travel why not improve the road? Install culverts where they need to be. We have more run off now because of the fires than ever before. Grade it so it's passable. I am not asking to pave it but make it wide so it can be used for fire breaks and get equipment from each direction. Rock the areas that need to be rocked so it doesn't slide out. By also removing those trees, the road will dry out faster and be easier to travel in the winter months.

I feel if these improvements were made on South Fork Mt. the communities on both sides would greatly benefit from it. It would act as a fire break for future fires. The road would be safer and easier to travel on for everyone. If the oaks are planted and the fields were to come back the wildlife would benefit from it also, but not doing anything would be the worst you could do. I would be very open to have discussions on this project since I am so familiar with this area.

Thank you

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