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Organization: Salmon River Restoration Council

Title: Associate Director

Comments: Dear District Ranger Stroberg, Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Antelope and Tennant Fire Recovery Project. While the Antelope and Tennant Fire Recovery Project is outside the normal geographic range of our work, we commented during pre-scoping due to the inclusion of chemical treatments in its scope. We are very pleased that chemical treatments have subsequently been removed from the project scope and hope that they will not be included in future projects on the Klamath National Forest. In regards to other proposed treatments, we are generally in favor of hazard tree removal where necessary along high use and emergency ingress/egress roads, limited salvage where stakeholders agree it makes sense, prescribed fire, meadow restoration and native grass seeding. We would like to commend your district for looking at the broad scale restoration of fire process in these recent fire footprints. Including more than 17,000 of prescribed fire is a huge step in the right direction. With a large number of large fires in the past decade we need to start looking at these recent fire footprints as important opportunities to restore resiliency to future fires on that landscape. By reintroducing fire as natural fuels become available we will go a long way towards setting this new and healthier fire regime at a landscape level. SRRC Restoration Director, Karuna Greenberg is a co-lead for the Western Klamath Restoration Partnership (WKRP), and helped to collaboratively create WKRP's recent Post-Fire Recommendations paper. This Post-Fire document discusses increasing fire use in recent fire footprints along with multiple other collaboratively agreed upon strategies for post-fire recovery. We encourage you to review it. Here is a link to this document:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58647a6ad482e92ded464468/t/6089b35e2a44a041b6b49a86/1619637087984/WKRP+Post+Fire+Plan+Recommendations.pdf> We are generally not in favor of site prep and reforestation, especially where it does not factor in pre-fire suppression forest compositions. In general, site prep and plant is highly impactful, removing all of the remaining shade and organic matter from the landscape, thus hindering natural regeneration in the hopes of establishing new plantations that are very unlikely to reach maturity before burning in the next catastrophic fire. In the meantime, the investment that goes in generally means that future prescribed fire won't be used in areas that have been replanted, setting the stage for a continuing cycle of poor forest management and recurring catastrophic fire. We therefore encourage you to use this treatment very judiciously. Thank you, Lyra Cressey