

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/5/2024 12:17:08 AM

First name: Andrew

Last name: Simrin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

My name is Drew and I have lived and worked in the southern Willamette my whole life. I care deeply about the ecosystem in the region, including the management of the nearby forests.

I spent a decent weekend (02/02/2024-02/04/2024) to go field-check conditions for the Kinney Creek thin project, and attempted to access Humbug Creek Thin project area.

After successfully field surveying/checking the Kinney Creek thin project area, I headed towards Humbug Creek. I quickly came upon snow upon the roadway up to the units. I did encounter a group with two vehicles attempting to also go up the same road that the thin project is on, and they were having trouble getting their vehicles turned around in the snow. I also had to turn around due to the road being temporarily blocked by the vehicles, and later learned the next day (02/04/2024) after attempting to access the Humbug thin project area again that there is more large diameter downfall across the road, far away enough and with deep enough snow that I was unable to check the project area on foot or vehicle this trip.

My concerns would be that large diameter trees and snags should be retained, and that maturing forest characteristics be achieved without aggressive large thinning/gaps. It was difficult to attempt to check this project when it was announced to the public due to its elevation during the winter. My biggest concern is recent usage of categorical exclusions to make these system impacting decisions without a more rigorous review and public engagement process.

Thank you for your consideration.