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Comments: Old growth trees do not burn like second growth trees and younger generation trees do. This fact was brought home to me when , as a reporter ,years ago I interviewed Julia Butterfly. I went up to Humboldt County and a logger offered to take me up into the mountains to prove his point about what wildfires could do. On top of this mountain the whole scene was one of devastation. However, there was a green spot, (I don't know how many acres it was) but it was green. I asked ' why didn't that burn ?' and he replied "Oh, that's an old growth patch.

The mismanagement of our forests, the cutting down of old growth is one of the biggest problems

Unfortunately, we hardly have any old growth forest left and so we have devastating forest fires.

Logging and clearing out debris dries out the forest as a Judge recently ruled below.A US District Court judge recently ruled in favor of the Klamath Siskiyou Wildlands Center that a full EIS must be prepared on a wildfire prevention-justified logging project in Oregon. See recent legal ruling below, in particular the bold sections below from the judge's decision. The science is clear that thinning can act as a barrier to species migration esp. those species like the spotted owl who depend on dense forest. It is not credible to state that there is no controversy around this, as the Forest Service claims. P. 28-29 Judge Clarke's Recommendations and Findings:

" When presented to the public, the IVM Program received deep public disapproval and skepticism during its comment phase: Neighbors and advocates disputed the lack of transparency and site-specific analysis, as well as the nature of the Program, which sacrifices habitats for commercial logging. AS and KS Plaintiffs presented substantial evidence that BLM's chosen logging prescriptions would not have the intended effect and would instead exacerbate fire issues. For example, some studies found that treatments like Open and Intermediate, which create open conditions through thinned portions of forests stands and rely on regeneration, not only remove the habitat and connectivity that is required for NSO survival, but those treatments have also been found to create highly flammable young stocks interspersed throughout the thinned units. Another study found that the regrowth and replanting required in younger plantation stands will eliminate the effort to mimic past fire regimes, and the gap openings will increase fire hazard in these stands. Other research concurred that open conditions and more intensive forest management can lead to accelerated levels of fire severity in this region specifically, and that thinning and group selection openings may indirectly increase surface wind gusts and temperatures, increasing severity of surface fire behavior.I also object to the use of herbicides in National Forests.In the book Finding the Mother Tree by Susan Simard, she experimented with herbicides and tree planting and found that it actually inhibited growth.About SuzanneSuzanne Simard is a Professor of Forest Ecology at the University of British Columbia and the author of the book, Finding the Mother Tree.She is a pioneer on the frontier of plant communication and intelligence; and has been hailed as a scientist who conveys complex, technical ideas in a way that is dazzling and profound. Her work has influenced filmmakers (the Tree of Souls in James Cameron's Avatar) and her TED talks have been viewed by more than 10 million people worldwide.Suzanne is known for her work on how trees interact and communicate using below-ground fungal networks, which has led to the recognition that forests have hub trees, or Mother Trees, which are large, highly connected trees that play an important role in the flow of information and resources in a forest. Her current research investigates how these complex relationships contribute to forest resiliency, adaptability and recovery and has far-reaching implications for how to manage and heal forests from human impacts, including climate change.Suzanne has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles and presented at conferences around the world. She has communicated her work to a wide audience through interviews, documentary films and her Ted Talk shows, "How trees talk to one another".

I encourage the US Forest Service to utilize her extensive research and knowledge?

Instead its the same ole plans in the name of preventing forest fires which are not working and will not work unless it starts doing things differently.

Working with the Indigenous people is a great step in that direction.