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First name: Michael

Last name: Stanford

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mr. Jeff Rivera

District Ranger

Wenatchee River Ranger District

Leavenworth, Washington

Dear Mr. Rivera/USFS

Regarding the UWPP EA document following are my thoughts and observations.

- 1)I am concerned that it appears 25,000 acres of unhealthy forest will not be treated. Why? Areas surrounding LSR should be prioritized and treated. If not treated the risk of catastrophic wildfire is too great and poses a larger threat to the Spotted Owl and other important habitat.
- 2)The project needs to start treating high risk areas around homes and expand over time to lower risk areas with an emphasis on existing community protection lines and road improvement.
- 3)Maintenance of community protection lines needs to be part of the plan.
- 4)The plan does not specifically call out WUI protection in the mapping and address follow-on maintenance of WUI areas.
- 5)Is the USFS willing to consider partnering with and allowing neighboring land owners to treat USFS forests in the WUI area to reduce the risk of wild fire spreading to or from USFS land?
- 6)Prescribed fire needs to take into consideration human health. Local air quality monitoring and management is needed but should not be so intrusive as to stop planned prescribed fire treatment.
- 7)Regarding roads; it is not clear which roads will be closed. Access and egress are important to maintain for fire suppression and evacuation. What is the plan to maintain egress?
- 8)A major fire in this community will degrade the scenic value of the area and therefore negatively impact property values and tourism. Has that been addressed? What is the plan to minimize that risk?
- 9)Open the Camp 12 road for egress if there is a major fire threat. The local Ranger district and OKWNF has the power to make our community safer from the threat of wildfire by opening this road and making it only accessible by Fire, EMS and emergency personnel for use during major wildfires and possible community evacuation. Not only would this allow better access to forest managers to mitigate fires but reduce the loss of life in the Chumstick and Ponderosa/Plain communities in the event of a "Paradise California" type event.
- 10)Establish a community monitoring work group to work with USFS to co-develop mutually agreed upon goals, objectives and protocols to monitor UWPP progress.
- 11)The timber harvest over 15 years appears to be low. What percent of the board feet in the 74,000-acer project area will be actually harvested?
- 12)Why such a low value for timber?
- 13)How will slash be managed and disposed of? Leaving logging slash and poorly managing this has happened on the forest in the past, creating a larger risk and visible eyesore along county roads and private land. Having a system to hold logging contractors accountable for post treatment restoration is crucial to the community supporting these efforts.