

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/8/2022 4:58:26 AM

First name: K.

Last name: Higinbotham

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Input Regarding the Quartzville-Middle Santiam(QMS) Alternative 4:

It's a pretty big foot in the door.

To open /or re-open some portions, in order to 'manage' this massive of an area with various silvicultural treatments... in it, a Wilderness Area, is nearly surrounded by the 89,000 acres of the QMS project planning area. Headwaters of wild rivers and creeks in an amazing Watershed.

-Way, way too many Miles of Roads. Building, reconstructing; 290+/- miles.

-Opens the door: Fire Hazard. Landslides. Wind-throw. Pollution to waterways.

-Commercial logging, aerial spraying. Harm to fisheries. Huge costs to our future climate.

A gem of a Wilderness Area in the midst of it all.

I grew up getting to hike and camp in the beautiful Middle Santiam and Old Cascades mapped in and around the QMS project. It is an amazing region. A vast planning area like this opens the door to more future industrial forestry. Please scale-down and amend the selected Alternative 4 before your final decision is made.

Amend Alternative 4: Reduce the acres of cutting, protect riparian zones, reduce miles of roads and road-rebuilding. Conserve special habitats, at-risk species, the water health and fisheries health. Put more USFS professionals on site to monitor during harvest; make sure plan protections / boundaries and age-class of trees are followed according to unit prescriptions. Be sure that intended best practices for the health of the forest landscape are implemented.