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First name: Donovan

Last name: Heckman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: o----o (Britchen Brand)

Heckman Cattle Company

P. O. Box 87

White Bird, Idaho 83554

March 27, 2023

Jeffery Shinn

Salmon River District Ranger

304 Slate Creek Road

White Bird, ID 83544

Dear Mr. Shinn,

I am writing in regard to the Hungry Ridge Restoration project and the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (Draft SEIS). Not only am I in favor of moving forward with this project, but I believe if this project is not completed, the long term sustainability of the forest and old growth habitat will be in jeopardy.

Over the past several years, wildfires have become increasing severe. These intense, uncontrollable fires are an immediate threat to the old growth habits. Removing hazardous fuels will lower fire intensity and allow firefighters to be for effective.

Forest health is also a concern in this area. Insects, disease, and the stress of draught conditions have taken a heavy toll on the forest. As the larger trees are compromised the risk of crown fires increase and with that fire intensity.

The stated purpose of the Draft SEIS is to manage forest vegetation, improve long-term resilience, reduce potential risk, improve watershed and maintain/improve habitat structure. Alternative 2 would allow all of these goals to be accomplished. Allowing pre-commercial thinning to restore an open canopy and wider spacing would not only reduce fire fuels, but would also enhance non-timber forest amenities including grazing, wildlife and recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. The health of our national forest is vital to all neighboring private land owners.

Sincerely,

/s/ Donovan L. Heckman

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