

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/27/2023 7:00:00 AM

First name: Jim

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Title: Resource Manager

Comments: Transcript of the handwritten letter received from Jim Wassmuth, by Jennie Fischer.

March 24, 2023

Jennie Fischer

Project Team Leader

Nez Perce Clearwater National Forest

104 Airport Road

Grangeville, Id 83530

Re: Hungry Ridge Restoration Project Draft SEIS

Evergreen Forest would like to comment on the recently released Draft SEIS for the Hungry Ridge Restoration Project.

The hold up on this project appears to be whether any timber harvest should be allowed in those areas now classified as Old Growth under the current Forest Plan. We feel the practice of designating a area as Old Growth based on only the number of trees/acre over a certain diameter needs to be looked at. The Boise National Forest uses their Wildlife Conservation Guidelines where they leave all trees over 20[rdquo] DBH and this often results in a stand of old highly defective Grand Fir. This is poor Timber Management.

Whatever the value of those trees in the areas designated as Old Growth we believe that some timber harvest should be allowed based upon good forest management. Removing some of ladder fuels and trying to move the stand to more seral species will help to protect theses areas in the long term. May-be a lower cut volume per acre followed by excavator piling. If a large fire would occur in these areas as they currently existing, you would probably end up with very few Green trees remaining.

There have been several large fires recently in the South Fork of the Clearwater, the most recent one near

Orogrande. The Hungry Ridge area is similar and some fuel reduction measures would be helpful in preventing a large fire in this area. To reduce the fire danger we must do some preventative work even in the Old Growth areas.

Sincerely yours

James D Wassmuth

Resource Manager

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