

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/24/2016 12:00:00 AM

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Comments: From: John Mcphee <mcpheeford@gmail.com>

Date: February 24, 2016 at 9:51:06 AM PST

To: Carolyn Napper <cnapper@fs.fed.us>

Cc: 'George Jennings' <jennjenn01@sbcglobal.net>

Subject: Elk LSR Enhancement Project

Carolyn,

It was my intent to write a letter from the Greater Lake Shastina Fire Safe Council with comments regarding the subject project.

Upon looking at the information on the net regarding the project and solicited comments, it appears that you are looking for more comprehensive scientific knowledge than I have training to deal with. George told me I needed to make specific comments, and I can only deal in generalities.

That stated, I'll mention a few of my general comments and then you and I, and perhaps George, can discuss them and then educate me a little so that next time I'll be a bit better prepared to make relative and appropriate comments. A couple general comments though: 1) the more area that can be treated to reduce fuels, the better, 2) perhaps I didn't read far enough into the proposal, but I would like to see the perimeter dozer line cut as a true fire break, ie 200 or more feet wide (some trees can be left such as was done on the breaks you did several years ago off highway 97), 3) the thinning as stated can be variable but should tend toward the thinner side, (if I understand the SDI component) then less than 180, 4) to reemphasis, the thinning should be done permitting the maximum variety of tree species, especially hard woods 5) if studies have proven that the northern spotted owl and/or the northern goshawk inhabit the area, then fine, put aside stands for their habitation, but if not proven, then these proposed "refuges" should be treated, there are lots of potential areas for them to inhabit, 6) any commercial cutting within the project area should be only for thinning of trees or the removal of dead/infected (beetle and root) trees, 7) there needs to be an emphasis on mixing species, natural to the area, when creating "plantations", and there needs to be required follow-up to thin and maintain these "plantations" (I define a plantation in this case as any replanting, either after harvest or fire) - expensive, but people that use the wood should be expected to pay the cost to help maintain healthy forests.

Hopefully you, George and I can sit down sometime in the next month or so, and you both can educate me on how I should respond to future proposals. I apologize that we didn't respond to this project proposal, we'll try to do better in the future.

John McPhee