Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/9/2017 2:43:14 AM
First name: alden
Last name: moffatt
Organization:
Title:
Comments: When fires are ignited by drip torches, they are not natural fires, even if there is a naturally caused fire in the vicinity. USFS so called controlled burns are causing serious health effects all over the Pacific Northwest. Recreation on the Klamath has been reduced to zero during the summer months because of smoke. Economies of local towns have been effected in a serious way.
There was a time when the USFS put out every single fire. Fuels accumulated and underbrush grew. Big trees with thick bark were logged and thin skinned plantations were grown. You can't undo that ecosystem change by torching off everything and smoking out the whole world.
When I came to the Klamath in 1972 old timers called it the asbestos forest, because it didn't burn. The big trees had thick bark and resisted fires. There were lots of 400 to 800 year old trees. At that time, summers were very hot and dry and fuel got just as dry as it did last summer.
Drip torches are a disaster. In no way shape or form do drip torches create natural conditions. Helitorches are a bigger disaster, dumping napalm on the backs of the local wildlife. Area ignition closes all wildlife escape routes. Big trees need compost. The USFS is burning up all the compost.
I'm not totally against letting things burn, but, as with many things, government can be heavy handed. The forest is not a one size fits all thing that needs a prescription.
Elk Creek has been burned recently and prescribed burning does not need to be a part of restoring it.
If there is a lightening fire in that watershed, let it burn, or go out by itself. Whatever happens is not the governments problem.