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Comments: I have several issues with the Lone Pine EA. The first is the lack of explanation of how the forest stand structure became even age without much for seedling recruitment. It seems most likely that this was caused by poor timber management practices focused on suppressing fire and growing trees. Typically, the solution to a problem is not found using the same practices that set the stage for it.

It seems like the Scoping document down plays the fact that the beetles are endemic to the area. We are witnessing a change event. It may be hard to grasp but the even age forest created by a robust logging program is not natural or even desirable based on the forest management plan.

The need statement should likely be restructured to show the main focus of the project: cutting timber for local industry and regional targets. I do not oppose that concept, however it seems masked by a number of other goals that may or may not be achieved by this project. My concern is the one tool that could actually restore forest health in the long run: fire, would be restricted due to logging activity.

There is no evidence to support the statement; "reduce fuels and promote conditions for re-introduction of low and mixed severity fire"(P/N, p-4). The forest could do this and is doing this today by prescribed and managed natural fire. There are numerous examples of these effects from the last few years. The Plateau fire burned during an exceptional drought and peak fire weather largely for the benefit of the landscape. My concern is that there might be another situation like the Plateau, Knolls, Long draw or Trimble RX that would be held up or not take advantage of because of a logging sale or logging activity.

I support the recent decision for prescribed fire across the pine zone and this proposed action threatens the effectiveness of that project. It also threatens the ability for fire managers to take advantage of appropriate strategies of management when natural fires ignite near logging activity.

Lastly, I oppose mastication as a restoration tool, it can be useful to prepare control features for wildfires or prescribed fire. But there is little science to support it being effective as increasing forest health in the beetle killed ponderosa pine. The result is an unnatural fuel bed and unlikely to stop any beetle spread.