

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2020 5:07:04 PM

First name: Thomas

Last name: Johnson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Madam,

I live on property that abuts one of the parcels contained in the Foothills Landscape Project #52509. While I support the general goal of managing forests to maintain their natural state (and thereby reducing the fuel load so as to achieve smaller, controllable fires when fires occur), there are no specifics in the plan that allow me to know what is actually proposed for the land to which I am adjacent. I don't know when or if this property will be cut, burned, or sprayed. It is shown as being one of the high scenic categories, but I don't know if that means it will be "managed" or whether that means it is less likely a road will be cut into the forest. In fact, much of the land to which I am adjacent was clearcut just 40 years ago, so I am a bit surprised it is contained in this management plan.

In addition, if anything is to be done to this property, I am strongly against using herbicides to reduce the understory. My well water comes from water percolating through the soil, and the last thing I want is to add chemicals to my drinking water. If vegetation must be reduced, I believe that a prescribed burn (with appropriate firebreaks to prevent my house from burning down) would be a more appropriate management tool. Please do not treat any of the land in question with chemicals.

I also have a comment regarding the way this plan has been publicized. I have owned my property for five years, and I have not received one communication from anyone regarding this plan. I found out about it from a neighbor and from seeing articles on Facebook. I have read that this will be the last public comment regarding this plan, and that implementation of the plan could take decades with no additional public comment. I strongly disagree with this approach. As I stated earlier, I have no idea what is being proposed or what will actually be done with the Forest Service property that is adjacent to my property. I believe that once the specific plans for a given parcel of land are determined, that specific plan should be publicized and the public should have an opportunity to comment. It may turn out that nothing will be done to the property due to the scenic nature of the land. Or it might turn out that the property will be clear cut and replanted with whatever the Forest Service believes is native to the property. In any case, I need an opportunity to comment on whatever the actual specific plan turns out to be. So far, I have not been afforded the opportunity to comment other than in generalities. I do not believe this plan should move forward until specific plans for specific parcels of land have been determined, and the public has had a chance to comment on the plan for each specific parcel. Thank you for the opportunity to comment at this stage of the project.