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Comments: Dear Supervisor Jewett:

First, thanks. Thanks for the work and the enormous effort, yours and your staff's, that have gone into the draft Foothills Environmental Assessment. I am genuinely excited by a number of the ideas discussed, including the carve-out for stands of old-growth trees.

But I must finally oppose a core tenet of the plan: that any long-term, far-reaching EA can replace the site-specific planning review that NEPA has provided for decades now.

Here's the analogy that struck me early in the public process and remains with me today:

Would I, if I were owner of a tract of forested land, agree to a years-long management plan for that land if the supervising forester could not tell me exactly when and where he/she intended to apply culling, thinning, fire, herbicide spraying, road building, and clearing of rights of way? The honest answer is "no."

That's the crux for me.

With best wishes and thanks for your stewardship of this project and for the thousands of staff hours spent getting to this point,

Kevin Doyle