

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/13/2020 7:14:53 PM

First name: Anne

Last name: McLaughlin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Any plan that prioritizes corporate benefits over public or wildlife benefits should be revised. I am a fifth-generation Idahoan on both sides of my family. My grandfather was a lifetime logger, and for the last few years of his life, he drove me around in the forests, showed me wildlife and told me things he'd learned in his 90+ years in Idaho forests. He specifically was opposed to clear cutting, period. He detested the practice of destroying streams. He had the benefit of a lifetime in the woods, starting as a mule handler when he was 16 out of St. Maries and Elk River. He was able to recognize the long-term irreversible damage caused by greedy and short-sighted corporate logging companies. These companies need to be forced by government agencies to do what's best for the future of these immense and invaluable places, including consideration of how important STANDS of old growth trees are, sufficient to support wildlife as habitat and ecosystem and how essential streams are for mountain and downstream life. These forests belong to ALL of us, not just the highest bidders. And we need to keep an eye on preservation and conservation for generations to come. I am keenly aware of my ancestors decimation of forests in Europe. I don't want the same to happen to Idaho. When you cut down trees, especially by clearcutting, you permanently affect the watershed and dry up the climate in that ecosystem. Has anyone considered that contemporary logging practices may be CONTRIBUTING to forest fires, NOT alleviating them? Deep, dense forests preserve and maintain watersheds. Clearcuts dry everything out. Make Idaho Great Again. Save the Forests for the Future.