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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi,

I am a young man living in the northwest, and I am writing to express my concern and objection to this proposed logging activity. I am a carpenter and saw-mill operator, and small-scale forester by trade, as well as an outdoor enthusiast and practical conservationist. My stake in the project is three-fold: I am employed by the construction industry which logging supports, I am passionate about conservation and climate change mitigation, which logging done this way directly works against, and I am a user of these forests for recreation, participating thereby in that crucial part of the northwest's modern economy. I say all this to illustrate that my comments are not coming from a naive or one-sided perspective

My first objection is around the environmental impacts of this project. I believe the scale is too great, both because of the large destructive impact on the forest ecosystems and because of the loss of carbon sequestration potential. Right now is a crucial time for decisive action on climate change, and moving forward with these projects would be a huge step in the wrong direction. The scale of these projects is unprecedented in recent times, and needs to be reduced. At the absolute least, an EIS must be done to assess the projects' consequences.

Additionally, these forests are of great economic value to the region in two ways. The first is through recreation, which is a rapidly growing, sustainable industry which employs many people both directly and indirectly, as well as specifically bringing long lasting business to small towns nearby. The economic benefits of logging will be short lived, and much of the money will go to large companies instead of local people.

Secondly, these forests benefit the region economically through ecosystem services, such as water purification, carbon sequestration, and wildlife habitat, which are all very important.

As a result of all this, I think this proposed logging is a big mistake, and should be reduced and/or re-evaluated altogether.