

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/12/2020 6:13:12 PM

First name: Brooks

Last name: Kline

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I STRONGLY oppose the proposal to start cutting large trees in Central/Eastern Oregon. As someone who spends a lot of time in the Deschutes NF cutting firewood and hunting, I see first-hand the effects of logging in the forest. The current, selective logging that leaves large trees (specifically ponderosa) standing creates a healthy, open forest that recover quickly and withstands fire. Areas that have been effectively cleared of large ponderosa (e.g. due to large fires) become lodgepole thickets--that is, future fire hazards with little diversity. What's more, young lodgepoles out-compete young ponderosa, so the chance of ponderosa recovery is minimal in these areas without massive human intervention (i.e manually re-clearing lodgepole and replanting ponderosa). Due to the relatively slow growth and high fire-resistance of mature ponderosas, I have a hard time believing the 'science' that says this rule needs to be changed for fire management. If it specifically targeted large shade-tolerant fir trees (which I only see at higher elevations in the Cascades) and protected old-growth ponderosa, I might believe in the good-faith of this proposal. But the mind-boggling logic of removing the most fire-resilient trees--as well as their protective role in relation to the rest of the forest, leaves me to conclude that this is yet another cynical ploy to destroy what remains of Mother Nature's wild places to appease the selfish greed and profit of a few.