

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/11/2020 7:00:00 AM

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Title:

Comments: Eastside Screens Plan Amendment

Eastside screens need to allow strip group selections to make room for ponderosa pine and western larch regeneration otherwise Douglas-fir and grand fir will out compete the pine and larch.

Sanitation of mistletoe needs to be allowed or mistletoe will eliminate regeneration from producing timber.

25% of dry forest have been deforested by fire since the Eastside screen rule. The lack of timber harvests to reduce "heavy standing green fuel" known as overstocked stands was stopped by the eastside screens. Site preparation burning for planting also removed the fine flashy fuels that carry the fires.

A 90% reduction in timber harvests was followed by 18% unemployment, large wildfires, large insect epidemics and massive heavy fuel accumulation. Twenty five percent of the forests were converted to brush fields as a result.

The loss of mills lowered employment in rural communities. There were 10 mills in the Prineville area in 1990. Now there are three mills in the area. Technology may have eliminated some of these mill jobs but jobs lost to a 90% reduction in timber harvests included logging trucks drivers, logging crews, timber crews, lumber truck drivers and associated business. These jobs were not lost due to technology but due to reduction of timber harvests. Timber that should have been harvested burned in severe intensity fires causing deforestation.

Salvage, sanitation and group selection harvests are needed. Strip group selections would provide room for larch and pine regeneration, big game forage and fuel breaks in conjunction with roads to protect the old growth from destruction by wildfires.

Wilson