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Comments: Forest Management Direction for Large Diameter Trees in Eastern Oregon

Dear USFS Region 6 Planning,

The changes are positive.

This message is a public comment on the Environmental Assessment to amend the Wildlife Standard of the Eastside Screens. Eastern Oregon's National Forests have become overstocked, fire-prone and insect infested. Active forest management is needed across all eastside forests to restore forest health. There is no science supporting the current approach (No Action alternative).

A growing body of science supports the removal of some trees greater than 21 inches in forest restoration projects. In overstocked forests, for example, removing some large fir trees can help pine trees grow larger and make them more resilient to fire. For this reason, I support the Adaptive Management Alternative to allow land managers to use the best available science to implement the most effective forest health treatments on a given landscape.

The Adaptive Management Alternative will increase opportunities for proactive forest management, timber harvests and safe public access. It will also ensures some stability for the region's forest infrastructure, and increase capacity for forest management in future years.

Sincerely,

Gayle Merz