

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/14/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Ron and Joy

Last name: Lopez

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Kathryn and Jacob, here are our thoughts, and we look forward to hearing yours.

Support the efforts of restoring and implementing natural fire in a healthy forest

#### Suggestions and Concerns

Thinning and removing understory vegetation- excellent! Concerns- loss of slow water filtration from leaf or needle to ground , and potential for erosion once removed. Also loss of habitat for wildlife

Suggestion- we have seen some success with what we refer to as BrushBerms- berms lightly packed several feet high of semi-masticated or hand cut brush, running horizontally to the slope. The # of berms and distance between them is determined by the steepness of the slope and the flammability of the vegetation.

The BrushBerm provides for slow water filtration, wildlife habitat and ultimately food for the forest as it breaks down.

Concern- that the plan for removal of understory plants and invasive plants will require herbicides. The most benign of which, RoundUp and its generics, have been linked enough to specific cancers (<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cancerhealth.com%2Farticle%2Fbayer-pay-10-billion-settle-roundup-cancer-lawsuits&data=02%7C01%7C%7C2e6e20d47bfc484365a108d840a09364%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637330405693907296&data=TAuqhl0INKP5krGtXCgkAWUVo7S%2FJ3J3NkGWtcuLK2l%3D&reserved=0>) but has been traditionally used by the USFS.

We do not support the use of herbicides in our publicly owned and managed forests.

Before, we could claim ignorance or skepticism, but now we cannot claim a science-based forest management policy and embrace the use of herbicides.

Suggestion- what we are seeking to replace is the natural pattern of fires. AFTER removing enough small trees and understory brush manually, complete with fast, prescribed burns.

Thank you for allowing our input ,

Ron and Joy Lopez