

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/29/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Christie

Last name: Nelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please modify the Shasta Agness Project

Dear Shasta Agness Objections,

Please preserve mature and old growth trees in general. They play a role in fighting climate change by sequestering carbon dioxide. They support water resources, becoming more precious every year, by preventing the forest from drying out. They are vital for preserving habitat for certain animals and plants.

Holding these values, I do not agree with your your draft decision to log 2,199 acres of Late Successional/Old Growth Reserve Lands (LSR) under the guise of "oak restoration." These large old conifer trees should not be thinned and it is obvious this is not the place for oak restoration -- it is not that type of habitat.

I do support the treatment of 1,635 acres of plantations. The NFP clearly states that plantations within LSR designations are the priority for management and not older forests that harbor at-risk wildlife. I agree there are some oak restoration units that would benefit from logging on southern exposures on poor soils in the Shasta Creek watershed (such as unit 72). However, the units along Oak Flat road are clearly in no need of unit wide thinning. I recommend that you drop unit wide commercial thinning in Oak Restoration units 8, 9, 10, 54, 73, 74, 75, 76, 78, and 79. Radial treatment around existing oaks >8" DBH would be appropriate in these units.

Protect bird habitat whenever and wherever possible. Birds are under enough threat as it is. Birds are a treasured part of life on this planet. All treatments within a mile of Humboldt marten and Northern Spotted Owl sightings must be dropped since the treatments would likely harm these animals contrary to Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) directives. The Draft Decision fails to demonstrate significant benefit from treatments in pine habitats that would offset possible significant adverse impacts to Humboldt marten, Northern Spotted Owl, or red tree voles.

Mature/old growth forests stands such as this one in oak restoration unit 78 is no place for unit wide thinning of trees up to 28"DBH where there are no oaks to restore. Let's work together to implement real restoration rather than cutting corners and ignoring Forest Plan protections for this LSR.

Thank you for listening and incorporating my concerns into your project planning effort.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Christie Nelson