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Comments: There is no logical reason for the USFS to change the wording of the 21" rule. I own 1,000 acres of timber property in Wallowa and Union Counties. My 150 acres in Union County burned in the Rooster Peak fire in 1973. The surviving trees were primarily 21" and larger. Now, 50 years later, my hillside is reforested, and those large trees still remain healthy. My Wallowa property has been thinned, but not logged, for at least 50 years. I would never consider cutting one of the majestic large pines or firs. To change the wording of the USFS policy is a giveaway to a timber company like Hancock that sees trees as short term profit, not a long term biological history or important carbon sequestration. Ask yourselves, Who benefits?

Protect the few remaining old growth trees in eastern Oregon, for the beauty, for the climate, as a legacy of good forest management.