

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/6/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Merrily

Last name: Sutton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Jeffries,

I recreate frequently in the National Forests in Eastern Oregon and know that large forests are home to many species of wildlife and are loved by many people who also recreate in your forests.

I do not support the changes to the Eastside Screen rules being proposed by the Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region (Oregon and Washington).

For over 25 years the Forest Service has been operating under the Eastside Screen rules. These rules include a standard that says that trees 21 inches or larger, which have historically been lost to logging, will not be cut. The whole interconnected forest ecosystem of the Eastside forests has evolved to depend upon stands of large trees, and the 21-inch rule aims to allow these trees to once again reach maturity. In addition to the plants and animals that depend on these trees, large trees are natural carbon sinks, and play a key role in the fight against climate change.

I am concerned about and oppose this change, especially considering all the other environmental attacks from the Trump administration. The proposed change to the 21-inch rule will harm the ecosystems it was designed to protect, and the process has been rushed, leaving many questions unanswered.

Sincerely,

Merrily Sutton

This message was sent by KnowWho, as a service provider, on behalf of an individual associated with Sierra Club. If you need more information, please contact Lara Jones at Sierra Club at (415) 977-5500.