

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/14/2020 12:37:57 AM

First name: Sam

Last name: Allen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: There is clearly a need for change to benefit fire management policy, especially in light of the major fire season that occurred this fall on the opposite side of the Cascades. I would urge, however, that the protection of our oldest and largest trees is too important to be left to a guideline rather than a standard. The assessment related to this action cites trust issues between locals in the Northwest and federal managers, and I believe this distrust can only be expected given the history of federal management in the region. While it is sensible to relax the protections to allow the cutting of white, grand, and Douglass firs over 21 inches in dbh, why make this change the rule into a guideline rather than a standard? Why encourage managers to prioritize the recruitment of old and large trees rather than requiring them to do so? Community monitoring and dialogue can only go so far to ensure the right management decisions are made. I believe it is critical to have rules to explicitly prevent the destruction of old and large trees for short-term economic gain.

Therefore I hope the rule is revised, but that it remains a rule with all the force it currently wields. I would be very sad to see some of the most important cultural and ecological resources in the region lost by way of vague and permissive language.