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Comments: Thank you for reviewing the 21 inch screen. The 21 inch diameter limit was based on anecdotal information that suggested a 21 inch diameter would yield the necessary diameter for cavity excavators to make a home at their desired height. It was fine for a short term measure until better options were developed. Unfortunately it has obstructed good forest management for nearly 30 years.

The Adaptive Management alternative is the one that should be chosen. If diameter limits are imposed they will continue to require amendments or impede good management. Objectives outlined through collaboration or plans should be met by treating stands individually. Providing blanket direction will not allow that.

There are many examples of stands where diameter limits will exclude needed treatment. Stands that have encroached on meadows, aspen stands, or other good growing sites will exceed the diameter limit but need to be treated to maintain those components of the forest. Beetle infestations in a small group of pine trees over 21 inches have expanded to kill most of the old trees in some drainages. A small salvage sale could have saved significant habitat. Continuing with a diameter limit will just exacerbate these problems.

I have lived, worked and played in the forests of Eastern Oregon for most of 50+ years. Prolonging diameter limits and not actively managing as necessary will allow the forests to continue the current deterioration. Please allow objectives to be met through the Adaptive Management alternative.