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First name: Mary
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Comments on the Upper Wenatchee Pilot Project #49124.
I am a full-time resident of the Lake Wenatchee area. Over the past 20 years, I have experienced the threat of wildfires and have seen projects to reduce the threat of catastrophic fires and improve forest health. I have taken significant actions to improve forest health and "firewise" my own property.
I am in favor of improving forest health and reducing the threat of wildfires, but I am concerned about this project causing potential harm to the following:
*Wildlife habitat for species such as pine martens, mountain lions, bald eagles, river otters, mountain goats, bobcats, and threatened bird species.
*Plants such as bushes and wildflowers which have little tolerance for disturbance such as Brown's Peony, Avalanche Lilies, and similar.
*Soil disturbance causing erosion, especially on the very steep north slope of Nason Ridge. This could also lead to unstable hillsides and landslides.
*Sediment displacement into streams and eventually into Lake Wenatchee to the detriment of the lake's salmon, trout, and freshwater mussels.
I believe it is possible to balance the need for forest health and wildfire mitigation with the concerns I listed above. One step would be careful assessments of each geographic area by USFS experts which would involve input from local residents. I also request the USFS use robust environmental protection practices when determining the type of treatment to be used, and during the implementation of the treatment to our forests.
I don't know if this approach might increase the cost and/or the time to completion of the project, but even if it does, I believe it is worth it in order to preserve our beautiful, natural area.
I would like to receive future information about this project.