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First name: Jesse

Last name: Dudley

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Supervisor Chadwick and Ranger Padilla,

I live nearby in Norwood and as a frequent visitor to the Ponderosa forests of your district, I am vehemently opposed to the proposal to log Ponderosa trees over 20" dbh in the Salter Vegetation Management Project. Scientific consensus and best forest management practices dictate that large ponderosa trees are an essential element of a healthy ponderosa forest and are the single greatest factor to restore our ponderosa forest closer to historical conditions after the clear cutting of old-growth forests in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Our forests in this area are still recovering from this uninformed destruction, and our only hope to ever see forests remotely similar to those that existed here before European contact is to, at the least, preserve the largest ponderosa trees and let them grow to full size so they can play their critical role in a natural Ponderosa forest.

To better understand the importance of large old trees in Ponderosa forests I recommend the sections on Ponderosa forests and their history in the San Juan and Uncompahgre National Forests in this collaborative publication from the Forest Service and CSU:

https://cfri.colostate.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2018/03/Romme_HRVSouthCentral-Highlands1.pdf

Clearly old trees are critical to these forests in a myriad of ways that cannot be listed here, many of which I'm sure you're already aware. I urge you to take the long-term view of forest health and integrity and follow good management practices in this project by preserving any trees over 20". Let's not repeat the mistakes of the past that will take another 100-200 years to be resolved.

Sincerely,

Jesse Dudley