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Title:
Comments: Dear Ranger Carbonari and Mud Creek Project Area Team Members:
Thanks for your consideration of these comments on proposed work in this area.
PLease consider that the forest doesn't need us - we need it....for so much.....

Does it sometimes seem like you are, Yelling Fire in a crowded forest, but instead of rushing for the exits - more people are packing into the theatre with ever larger buckets of popcorn?

Is it even possible to be fully cognizant of all the layers of ecosystem interactions between fuel increase/decrease, carbon sequestration, habitats protections, clean, cold, and abundant water, climate changes over time etc?

What is the word for the increase of ladder and other fuels and so forth increasing the ease of fire jumping from ground/ group torching, into full on crown driven event?

Given that lower fuel moistures, lower humidities, and increasing winds/wind events, and increasing storm intensities of more lightning strikes can lead to larger fires - How will our forestry practices interact with these?

On a given day, like in August 2000 here, - everything becomes fuel, pine plantations as well as unmanaged dense stands. It all burns. At what points are we over managing the forest to prevent an unstoppable scenario? How do we identify those points?

Unlike a clearcut, fires leave most of the carbon on site since mainly the standing trunks are not consumed. Large trees hold more carbon than small trees.
How are the proposed actions addressing carbon sequestration?

Most of the time a patchwork of age/size classes, fuel breaks and so forth can work well, and are the main tool in the box to give us a running chance to catch/get ignitions on the ground, while also increasing resiliency to insect outbreaks as opposed to extensive even aged stands.
How can we best provide for our ecosystem services and values which can be at risk from over reductions on forest cover?

Like Huckleberries for example. They like a mostly shady Douglas Fir overstory. Too little shade and we get invasive species instead. Too little shade and streams get warm and go dry. Fuels become dryer. Over cut a south slope and it won't return to forest.
Our climate in changing in ways that will make it harder to replace forest cover etc.
How will the actions of this project factor climate change?
(It is getting warmer and dryer and where the hell is my supervisor right?)

Soil - How are we going to protect microhorizal fungi?
How at least mitigate for it's loss in large cutting units by encouraging it in other places?
Soils open to the air loose carbon. Intact soil sequesters it, as well as provide ground water protection etc.

Biodiversity - How will each project site protect, increase, or mitigate for that?

Roads/Trails - Linking up the old roads with OHV trails - These dead end roads as is provide a degree of wildlife security that will be lost by connecting them. How can we make up fit that loss? Which connected road/ohv trails

will be seasonally closed?

Stand Regeneration: Will become more difficult. Can we prefer more patch cut/shelter wood units to clearcuts?
Off site tree planting - How Can we increase tree planting? - Including elsewhere on the forest?

Desired Future Conditions - Won't ever be the same as past conditions - the snapshots of the past are history.

SO good luck with this ever changing dynamic of forest types/ changing climates.
Thank You
Charles Mabbott