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Comments: To Whom it Concerns:

This 3,837 acres of proposed logging, which would mostly be clearcuts in steep country is hard to envision as "regeneration harvesting". The proposed logging would encompass nearly six square miles of national forest. These are huge areas that are proposed for cutting, one being 460 acres. I do not see how such huge clearcuts could possibly be beneficial to forest health. It would totally wipe out wildlife habitat, pollute streams, and require many miles of road building.

So-called "old-growth enhancement" that calls for logging trees from existing old-growth forests, some over 200 years old, is totally unreasonable. I fail to understand how old growth forests can be improved by logging. Natural processes in old growth should be allowed to function without Forest Service management. Old growth is not a place to do experimental logging.

The proposed cuts are in very steep country. Sediment from road building, tree cutting and skidding, and thousands of logging trucks traveling on mountain roads is guaranteed to send sediment into Kelly Creek and the North Fork Clearwater River, streams that are critical habitat for westslope cutthroat trout and bull trout.

The proposal would degrade roadless characteristics within the Moose Mountain Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). The timber sale would also degrade roadless characteristics by logging 59 acres of forest within an uninventoried roadless area right next to the Hoodoo IRA - an area with enough wilderness character to be considered for wilderness recommendation. The Forest Service should be recommending all lands with wilderness characteristics as designated Wilderness Areas. Idaho is blessed with more wild lands than almost every other state, and we owe it to the nation to protect every acre.

Wildlife species, including gray wolf, marten, fisher, wolverine, Canada lynx, northern goshawk, and a number of other forest dwelling birds, which have already suffered severe habitat loss, will be further impacted by this timber sale. It would also impact the prospects of recovery for a grizzly bear population.

Huge areas would be impacted by the proposed "Dirty Laundry" logging project, and would further open up roadless lands to off-road vehicles. These vehicles are a menace to all forest life. People seem to have lost all reverence for wildlands, and with more miles of access for these destructive vehicles seemingly everywhere, it makes roadless public lands even more valuable for wildlife to live in peace, and for allowing natural processes that occur only in untrammeled country.

Thank you for accepting these comments.

Susan Westervelt