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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Birkey and August Phase 1 Planning Team,

I have been a supporter of EPIC (Environmental Protection Information Center) since 2001. I have visited their offices when they were located in Garberville when I was visiting my cousins in Northern Ca. Their recommendations are based on the latest sound science which includes impacts on wildlife habitat, protecting riparian areas which effects the health and sustainability of fish stocks, sustainability of forests and their ecosystems and now more important than ever the extremely valuable role that forests play in carbon sequestration. That is why I support the following statements and ask that you seriously consider their detailed and targeted recommendations.

The Smoky, Red Mountain, and Prospect Creek tributaries have already begun to recover from the August Complex fire. Natural regeneration is happening throughout this beautiful mosaic burn.

The thousands of acres of ground based post-fire logging, hundreds of acres of logging in Riparian Reserves, eight miles of "temporary" roads and opening two miles of decommissioned roads would harm water quality, soil, regeneration, wildlife, salmon, and other aquatic life. Additionally the visual quality in these watersheds would be greatly impaired by these invasive projects. The environmental assessment offers little to no real data to support the claims that this project would be insignificant. For decades scientific research explicitly shows that logging in fire-affected forests is ecologically the worst thing you can do for every aspect of the environment, and would likely increase future risk of fire in these watersheds.

Please protect and work towards the recovery of struggling salmon and wildlife populations, water quality, habitat connectivity and visual quality in the already impaired South Fork Trinity River. I urge you to forgo this massive logging project and focus on public safety. Focusing solely on imminent hazard trees (that are completely dead), and only around recreation sites and on major roads, not the entire 922 acres of roadside logging, as proposed in Alternative 2, is our best option for a healthy and safe watershed.

Sincerely, Jim Maurer