

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/1/2021 11:30:41 PM

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Comments:

As a long-time visitor to the area, the Forest Service's proposal to log over 4,000 acres of the Shasta Trinity National Forest in Forest Glen and the Wild and Scenic South Fork Trinity River strikes me as appalling at best. The stated purpose of the project is public safety and recreational access, reforestation, reduced fuels and economics although any one with common sense knows it is about more for-profit harmful logging of public lands.

Public safety and community protection should be a priority. However, home hardening, defensible space, creating strategic shaded fuel breaks, and removing legitimate hazard trees along major roads are better solutions. If nothing else, the lesson learned in our new age of hot, dry, windy fire-prone conditions is that a "wild-lands in" approach just simply doesn't work. The road construction and widespread ground-based logging with heavy equipment in impaired watersheds detrimentally harms the soil, and decimates natural regeneration. In addition, the slash left over after logging increases fuel load on the forest floor, adding to future fire severity.

The proposed nearly 1,000 acres of stream side logging in addition to the 4,000+ acres of tractor logging with 6 miles of "temporary" roads and the opening of 2 miles of decommissioned roads will harm the South Fork Trinity and it is already listed as sediment-impaired under the Clean Water Act. The additional sediment produced by the project would further harm struggling salmon and steelhead populations as well as harming water quality, in general.

The proposed project runs directly to the river's edge in some places and throughout multiple stream systems. Implementation would adversely impact the National Wild & Scenic South Fork Trinity River which is designated as "wild" because of its outstanding fisheries, and because it is legendary for its Chinook salmon and steelhead trout fishing. Both of these species are designated as Threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act, and in June 2021, the spring Chinook was listed as Endangered under the California Endangered Species Act. It has been established that post-fire logging, so-called "salvage logging" causes increased sedimentation, which directly harms juvenile salmon, and degrades their aquatic habitat.

Burned forests are important for carbon storage and rival green forests in biodiversity. Snags, especially the largest trees, will stand and store carbon for decades, contribute valuable soil nutrients, provide shade and important habitat for many species, including northern spotted owls, black-backed woodpeckers, bats and small mammals.

Also, the Forest Service focus on hazard trees includes nearly every road in the project area, over 900 acres. Surely, a reduced Alternative 2, makes more sense.

In closing, I would like to emphasize my belief that our current intact natural forests should be left alone, even post-fire. They are a bulwark against climate change, promote biodiversity and are vital to the health of the planet.