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Comments: [External Email]Support North Shore Alt 4!

[External Email]

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Dear Frank Aebly,

Dear Supervisor Carlson and Ranger Aebly,

I am adamantly opposed to herbicide use on the Mendocino National Forest and the North Shore project. The widespread use of toxic chemicals does not belong in forest ecosystems! I support Alternative 4 and the reduced logging footprint of Alternative 5.

Herbicidal chemicals are more toxic, more persistent, more mobile and more dangerous than their manufacturers disclose. Scientific studies associate exposure to herbicides with cancer, developmental and learning disabilities, nerve and immune system damage, liver or kidney damage, reproductive impairment, birth defects, and disruption of the endocrine system. There is no safe dose of exposure to those chemicals because they persist in soil, water, and animal tissue, so even low levels of exposure could still accumulate and harm humans, animals, and the environment. Herbicides are harmful to pets and wildlife - including threatened and endangered species, plants, and natural ecosystems. Herbicides are harmful to soil microbiology and contaminate soil into the future, reducing biodiversity in sensitive areas.

Herbicides are not necessary for sapling tree survival. The goal of controlling invasive species can be accomplished through a multitude of non-toxic alternatives that must be considered. Further, reducing the amount of ground disturbance, as proposed through Alternative 5, would reduce the need for invasive species management in the first place. The Forest Service shouldn't create new problems and further exacerbate one of the most significant threats facing our forest ecosystems.

Please do not endanger human health and the environment, choose Alternative 4 and the reduced logging footprint of Alternative 5.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Karynn Merkel

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