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Comments: [External Email]Quartzville-Middle Santiam Draft Environmental Assessment

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Regarding the Quartzville-Middle Santiam Draft Environmental Assessment, Sweet Home Ranger District, Willamette National Forest, Linn County, Oregon, this project will have a major environmental impact and so should require a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Because of its size and diversity on the ground, it should be broken up into a number of projects, each evaluated separately with its own EIS.

The first Purpose and Need, supplying local mills with timber, has already been served by timber from recent fires and is no longer valid. That Need likely will continue to be served by future, inevitable wildfires, which are clearly the new normal.

All units in native forests never yet cut must immediately be dropped from consideration. We absolutely must leave our last uncut forests as true forests to sequester carbon -- tree plantations on 20-year cycles just won't suffice. As I'm sure you know, plantations burn more and faster, and are more apt to be ravaged by disease. Where there are plantations already, I support scientifically sound, ecological restoration thinning -- not clearcutting all but two trees per acre.

These projects, and others like them, will be carried on the backs of our children and grandchildren. Those future generations will be lucky to experience the majesty of old forests IF we leave any standing trees. What a shame.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration,

Laura M. Ohanian