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First name: Katie

Last name: Markowitz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I commend the hard work that the Forest Service has done to manage the damage done by recent wildfires in the Clackamas River watershed. I am writing to urge you to remove as few trees as possible while making the area safe for recreational, cultural, and economic uses. The planning area includes congressionally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers, and the area should remain as wild and scenic as possible. Please do everything you can to remove as FEW trees as possible.

This is an excellent opportunity to examine the impact that forest roads have on the surrounding ecology, especially in burned areas. Forest roads can exacerbate runoff into rivers, negatively impacting salmon habitat and drinking water. The road system in the Mt Hood National Forest is far too extensive, and the Forest Service did not have the funds to maintain all the roads even before the recent fires. Reducing the open road network could reduce the economic and ecological challenges the agency faces. Areas around roads that are currently closed or decommissioned, as well as roads considered for future closure or decommissions should absolutely NOT be logged. Dangerous tree removal in these areas makes no sense, is unnecessary, and is a waste of vital and limited funds.

Forest fires are a vital aspect of forest ecology. Many plant and animal species make use of burned areas, as well as partially burned trees and snags. Recently burned areas are fragile and should remain as undisturbed as possible. Bringing logging equipment into burned areas disturbs and destroys the forest's natural regeneration process. I know it's hard to accept, but when it comes to post-fire regeneration, and forest health in general, the forest is smarter than we are; we often do more damage by intervening. As much as possible, please let the forest take care of itself!

I love the Clackamas river and the surrounding forests, and have spent great deal of time there. I am worried that when we are finally able to re-enter the watershed, the most heartbreaking damage will have been caused not by the fire, but by the human interventions afterward. Please intervene as little as possible, and cut as few trees as possible.

Thank you.