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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Clackamas Ranger District, Mt. Hood N. F.

Forest Fire Road Snag Treatment Comments:

from Steve Pedersen, Jan. 31, 2020

I support maximum snag cutting and removal (where possible) along all possible fire-affected roads for the following reasons:

1) Closure of any road without proper total decommissioning guarantees some level of future environmental damage, moderate to severe. There will never be enough funding for decommissioning without a robust green harvest program, which will never occur.

2) Re-opening roads after danger-snag treatment will allow public access for the multiple uses the FS has been directed to supply to the public. Note emphasis on

the word "public", vs preservationist/zero-cut zealots whose sole long-term goal is the Re-Wilding of all forests.

To them, future major environmental damage from simply "closing" roads is just collateral damage, and worth the cost in order to obtain the big picture of getting humans out of and off the forest.

3) Removal of as much of the danger snags as possible to markets should be a priority, in order to generate at least some income to help defray the huge cost that it will take to try and restore the damage from the fires.

Creating family-

wage jobs from that work at the same time is a wonderful bonus that at least used to be considered as a positive thing for our region, state, and country.

4) the argument that "the public be damned, those snags (each and every one!) are sacred to wildlife, ecosystem diversity, etc. etc." makes for good headlines, but ignores the facts. Assuming a maximum of a 100ft strip each side of the 200 miles of treatment would approximate less than 5,000 acres if cut every tree, which of course would not be necessary. I think I read over 200,000 acres were

at least moderately burned in the fires. That would work out to about

2 1/2 percent of the total snags being cut, leaving 97.5 % standing. If that small of percentage will extirpate species and destroy the ecosystem, we are in way worse shape than most folks believe.

A little common sense and logic, as well as actually following the mission statement of the Forest Service (used to be conservation), should make this a fairly simple decision for those folks who are without a pre-existing zero-cut ideology. Please be wise enough to do the job you were hired for.

Thank you, Steve Pedersen, Bend, Or.