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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I want to quickly address tree cutting in fire affected areas. Excessive post-fire logging and the emergency rules - categorical exclusions - that allow it to happen with reduced levels of environmental scrutiny are of great concern to me. It appears that there has been opportunistic logging taking place on some minimally or not affected trees that would otherwise be able to recover, especially without prior notice to the public.

Burned forests are already more susceptible to soil erosion, water pollution, and wildlife habitat degradation.

"Wildfire boosts diversity in forests by helping to create biological legacies like standing dead snags, downed woody debris, and natural canopy gaps," the letter reads. "This added complexity creates space for the introduction of complex habitat and rich diversity that is not present in forests that have been cut and replanted with commercial species" (OPB-Neumann, 2021).