

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/10/2022 3:46:24 PM

First name: jeremiah

Last name: jenkins

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Dear Sir or madam, I'm writing regarding the proposed logging in the Grasshopper sale. I think the draft Environmental Assessment fails to consider the exceptional threat posed to high elevation units under current climate predictions. Future climate predictions put these stands at particular risk and if logged to this extent these areas will likely be gone permanently. The Forest Service must act locally to a global crisis by considering the value of conserving old growth stands for climate resiliency.

Furthermore, heavy-handed logging of old growth stands to prevent natural processes from occurring on the landscape (fire) does not improve forest health and vigor.

In my opinion, the "shelterwood alternative" (alternative two) claims to reduce wildfire risk however, this technique has a high rate of failure if it is not coupled with frequent maintenance and prescribed fire. The failure to do so would result in dense ingrowth and high solar loading due to loss of canopy. This likely scenario would result in a stand less resilient to wildfire than the mature, closed canopy, and cool understory that preceded it.

Both alternatives will result in downgraded 1,223 acres of suitable northern spotted owl critical habitat, which is deeply concerning given the species Federally listed status. The shelterwood alternative (alternative two) would remove an additional 267 acres of suitable northern spotted habitat. The Forest claims this area would take an additional 75 to 100 years to recover compared to alternative one.

I think it is important that this project should not result in long term detrimental effects to northern spotted owl.

Also, I think it is irresponsible that the Forest Service proposes to build 17 miles of roads into the forest as part of this project, without disclosing any details about their location or type, despite public inquiry. Without this information, an impacts analysis cannot be meaningfully completed. Please use this opportunity to build trust with the interested public and include this information in the Environmental Assessment for this project, and in all projects in the future.

Jeremiah Jenkins