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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am advocating for ecologically driven land management on Mt. Hood National Forest and to state my concerns with the Grasshopper Project.

I disagree with any portion of this project that would result in detrimental effects to Northern Spotted Owls.

Especially the planned downgrade of 1,223 acres of suitable northern spotted owl critical habitat and removal of 267 acres of suitable habitat under alternative two. Additionally, the affected stand is already under threat due to climate change and may be lost indefinitely if alternative two is chosen. When the canopy layer is removed, the shade and moisture of the understory is taken away. The soil heats and dries out, contributing to the chance of wildfires. After logging the current practice is to spray toxins on the soil which kills the life in the soil and prevents beneficial native plants to flourish as nurse plants to the young replanted trees. The younger, single-aged trees are not as resilient against wildfires as the thick-barked old-growth trees.

The old growth forests also provide the highest rates of carbon sequestration. I'm asking you to consider how the Mt. Hood National Forest could account for carbon conservation--a long-term benefit critically needed, over the short-term gain of logging.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Grasshopper Project. I urge you to continue to have meaningful public engagement on this project.