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First name: April

Last name: Hersey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The stated purpose of the Grasshopper project is to enhance and restore forest diversity, reduce the risk of high-intensity wildfires, improve conditions for wildlife and aquatic resources, and provide timber and other forest products. My values are most aligned with the first three of these, but based on the project proposal, I have concerns that only the last goal - to provide timber products - will be met.

This project claims it will reduce wildfire risk, but this conclusion does not follow from the proposed alternatives. Old-growth trees are the most resilient to wildfire, so logging them would remove the individuals most likely to survive and least likely to spread fire, resulting in a greater wildfire risk. Please do not log old-growth individuals, but rather make use of prescribed fire to maintain the forest. Fire is a natural part of our forest ecosystems here in the Pacific Northwest, and it's important to expose our forests to low-intensity, controlled fire on a regular basis to reduce the risk of larger, higher-intensity fires that could spread to the built environment and result in property damage or harm to humans.

In addition to its effects on fire risk, this project would remove trees that serve as large stores of carbon. Please consider how the Mt. Hood National Forest could sequester carbon to help mitigate climate change.

The Badger Creek wilderness has a variety of benefits to the residents of Oregon. These include water quality and habitat for native species. As part of this project, the Forest Service proposes to build 17 miles of roads into the forest, but they have not disclosed any details about their location or type, despite public inquiry. Without this information, an impact analysis cannot be meaningfully completed. I'm concerned that such an impact analysis may show adverse impacts on water quality or habitat connectivity as a result of these roads. In the interest of adequately answering these questions and building trust with the public, please include this information in the Environmental Assessment for this project, and in all projects in the future.

Finally, both alternatives will result in downgraded 1,223 acres of northern spotted owl habitat. This species is federally listed and has been of concern for decades. Please consider efforts to protect the northern spotted owl.

I primarily value the Badger Creek Wilderness for its use as a recreation site and a source of ecosystem services. Please consider these values as you revise how to achieve your goals for the area.