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Organization: Friends of Terwilliger

Title:

Comments: I am writing to respond the proposed Grasshopper Timber Sale and the DEA.

As the Forest Service you should be doing everything you can to protect our forests and the harmful effects of logging. Logging of old growth stands has a detrimental effect on the integrity of the forest to ward off the effects of climate change, contributes to soil de-stabilization and land slides, and causes habitat loss for our native animal and plant species who depend upon them. We humans also depend upon their carbon sequestration to improve air quality.

I disagree with any portion of this project that would result in long term detrimental effects to Northern Spotted Owl. Past timber harvests on federal land have reduced the amount of suitable habitat and this project contributes to this trend by removing 267 acres of suitable northern spotted owl habitat under alternative two. In addition, the affected stand is already under extreme threat due to climate change and may be lost entirely if alternative two is chosen.

Both alternatives will result in the loss of 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. Your own organization claims this area would take an additional 75 to 100 years to recover compared to alternative one.

We can't take the chance of this area be permanently and severely degraded for our lifetime! Say NO to this project.