

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/21/2022 5:18:04 AM

First name: Benjamin

Last name: Ayer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to you to urge for management of Mount Hood national forest that prioritizes ecological health. I believe that the grasshopper project will be detrimental to the health of the forest and our community.

Mature and old growth trees are the best at sequestering carbon. They also provide habitat for endangered species such as the northern spotted owl. Once lost this habitat can not be replaced. If logged high elevation forests like these may not replace themselves due to climate change. If we stand a chance of having a livable future we need to do all we can to avoid catastrophic climate change. Projects like the Grasshopper put us farther from this necessary goal.

Furthermore numerous studies show that the way commercial logging has been executed exacerbates the risk of extreme forest fires. Mature forests are more resilient to forest fires and logging increases risk. Building 17 miles of roads not only increases the risk of fire it also stretches our already small public funds into an unnecessary project. The fact that the locations and details of these roads have not been disclosed is shameful.

As the son of a forest service worker I want to be proud of the USFS. Projects like Grasshopper are the wrong direction. We need to act local to avert a global crisis. Please cancel this project in its entirety and focus your time on projects to improve forest health.