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First name: Ross

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear BHNF Management,

I am writing to express my disapproval of the proposed Spruce Vegetation management Project.

The BHNF has lost too many old growth trees in the name of fire suppression management, beetle kill management, and forestry job protection. It is now readily apparent that appeasing political and economic interests are the primary focus of the USFS as opposed to science, proven sustainable forestry management techniques, and long-term management of the BHNF. This misguided focus aligns only with the interests of a local lumber monopoly and it comes at the expense of the long-term viability of the forest you have been tasked with managing.

Ironically, this on-going failure to sustainably manage the BHNF will inevitably result in the direct economic undoing of our local timber industry. The science proves this and if you don't believe the science then ask yourself why the aforementioned monopoly has recently purchased mills in Colorado and Oregon. Is this forestry management and job creation or a smash and grab?

Your current failed approach to forest management here and nationwide always creates two camps, "us vs. them" in which a person is either 1.) for jobs and logging or is 2.) an anti-logging, nimby, tree-hugger who will stop at nothing to allow the forest to be over run with fire prone dog-hair, deadfall, and dead-end conversations. Neither is true and neither will lead to a solution or a resolution that is positive for either interest.

For these reasons, an "All Stop" to current logging on previous sales and on planned sales needs to happen. I've seen some of these units after they have been logged. They are dead zones with little ecological integrity. When it takes a 20 inch tree 200 years to grow and the lumberman only get \$20 for that tree, an "All Stop" isn't hurting anyone. These large trees can with-stand fire, they can mitigate climate change. More importantly, they can be managed long-term so there are enough for the saw while there are still plenty to be seen.

Do better for loggers, do better for the forest, do better for all of us. My kids and grandkids will thank you. Yours will too.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ross M. Wright