

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/9/2022 12:00:00 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Public Comment on 2020 Fire Affected Road System Risk Reduction Project

Dear 2020 Fire Affected Road System Risk Reduction Project Elsbeth Gustavson,

Please accept these scoping comments on the 2020 fire-affected road system risk reduction project.

I appreciate that the Forest Service has scaled back the scope of the initial project and is now working to prioritize only the most severely burned areas and roads with the highest use and access needs. I have some comments to share.

I'd like the Forest Service to focus roadside treatments on:

- Roads that provide ingress and egress for rural communities.
- Roads that access developed recreation sites and trails.
- High-use roads in stands that experienced high severity stand-replacement fire.
- Trees uphill and within 100 feet of roads and infrastructure that are highly likely to fall on roads.

When considering guidelines for what trees to cut, please err on the side of leaving trees to provide for important wildlife habitat, minimize soil disturbance, and retain stored carbon. Use site-specific information to determine what trees are an imminent danger, restrict any tree cutting to those within 100 feet from a road, and please be sure to protect riparian areas appropriately!

I would like to see only level 3, 4 and 5 roads - which are most used and needed for public access prioritized, as well as only those level 2 roads that access recreation sites, important infrastructure or provide ingress/egress. Other roads can wait.

Finally, a thorough environmental analysis is importance to me and the public. Please give sufficient detail and consider enough alternatives that we the public can make informed comments and weigh the potential impacts to our public lands. I look forward to seeing your proposed plan.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ms Sarah Hale