

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/4/2022 6:10:14 PM

First name: John

Last name: Oda

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Indicate if your comments are specific to one of the analysis areas (North Zone, Central Sierra Zone, or Southern Sierra Zone) or specific to a certain National Forest or location. (We are in the North Zone).

You would think that such a large project, with so many unknowns, would have had rigorous environmental impact assessment. Nope! Instead we get a skimpy Environmental Analysis that repeatedly concludes that the proposed logging would not pose any significant impacts.

Yet, the scale of the proposed logging is enormous. The project includes 5,780 miles of roads and trails. To put that into perspective, that is enough distance to go from Los Angeles to New York City! In the North Zone, the Forest Service is proposing to log up to 600 foot swathes across 2,708 miles of roads and 341 trails, equaling nearly 200,000 acres. Uncounted and undisclosed by the Forest Service are the number of landings necessary to pile the logs before they are hauled out of the forest. These are not dead forests. In many cases, the Forest Service would be logging forests affected by fire but still very much alive, with only a 60% chance of succumbing to fire wounds in the immediate future. Even individual trees that have been killed by fire play an important role in fire-adapted ecosystems. So, removing them would have a significant impact.

The Forest Service asserts that this aggressive logging is necessary to maintain its road and trail network. And we agree that removing trees that pose a hazard to road and trail users is appropriate. But the Forest Service has done the opposite: almost limitless logging that would enable long snaking clearcuts across our public lands when a focused and narrowly tailored project would be more appropriate.

Thank you very much.