

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/16/2022 6:38:07 PM

First name: Paul

Last name: Ederer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am pleased that the Forest Service sees the need to actively manage the Antelope /Tennant Fire and restore some functionality to the forest. I am concerned that the Forest Service has preemptively removed the option to use herbicides as a tool to assist in this task. From the Project Map the FS is proposing to plant 26K acres. I am concerned that much of this planting activity will be a waste of taxpayer dollars in that the known vegetative response will be a massive germination of brush species that are detrimental to conifer survival. Without active management of the brush component, the majority of planted seedlings will not survive or will be so stunted in their growth as to not be worth the effort. Herbicides are a well studied tool to manage the vegetation before, during and after tree planting. I understand that portions of the fire are not suitable for herbicide application and do not advocate their use everywhere. However many thousands of acres of the fire are suitable with no watercourses, neighbors or other restrictions that would prevent herbicide use. To exclude their use even before public comment closes is denying the taxpayer the option of analyzing all options for reforesting the burn. I feel disenfranchised by this premature choice. The FS owes it to the taxpayers - the owners of the land- to explore and advocate for all options in getting the trees back. I find this restricting of choice to be against the goals of restoring a healthy and resilient landscape. Reading the research on reforestation in California it is evident that competing vegetation must be managed to have timely, cost effective success. Without trees there is no forest. I would appreciate a response to these comments and wish to be included in future scoping