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First name: Samuel Last name: Merrick Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a retired Federal compliance manager, and although I support responsible harvesting of overgrown forest areas, I only support removal simply if such deforestation is for growth management, and restrict the use of "cost-plus", verbiage in any such contracts.

I recommend that a copy of every contract between the US Forest Service/USDA and those making such contract, be kept open for public review, for a period of 30-days before the official closing of bid offerings. This time period shall be used for reviewing compliance with official US Government contracting requirements to ensure compliance, as well as assurance with appropriate deforestation practices, to include proper reclamation processes, to sustain future growth and replanting of new trees, commonly found in the impacted areas, subject of such Harvesting scheduled to take place.