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Comments: greetings,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Dixie National Forest Prescribed Fire Landscape Resiliency Project #60970.

While I recognize the need to return to fire as a role in forest restoration and maintenance, I have some concerns and suggestions I would like to share regarding the current proposal:

*Attempting to resolve the issues related to 500 years of fire suppression in the span of 10 years, poses catastrophic risks for ecosystem health. If we are looking to mimic practices of the past we need to use the tools of the past. In this case smaller burnable acres over a longer span of time. I recommend turning this into a 100 year or even a 500 year plan. This would support wildlife habitat and allow for burned areas to come into succession in a timely way as burning proceeds in other areas.

*I recommend treating each proposed area as its own project, allowing for public notification and comment as the overall project proceeds.

*While fear of catastrophic uncontrolled fires is real, attempting to resolve issues of fire danger by burning down a third of the forests disregards the ecosystem service the trees currently provide in a time of changing climate, especially their role in drawing carbon out of the atmosphere but also habitat, beauty and diversity. Perhaps more focus needs to go towards preventing human caused fires which currently are the main cause of catastrophic fires in the West.

*That the prescribed fire resiliency project doesn't take into account acres of habitat lost to mechanical means and logging is an oversight. As well, mechanical means for forest management may be causing more harm than good as they disturb the understory, destroy cryptobiotic soil and lay the foundation for weedy/invasive species to come in.

Again I recognize the role of fire in ecosystem health and see areas where trees are dying from disease and that fire would help to regenerate these areas. However the timeline is too radical and having a blanket proposal or such a huge area doesn't take into account the need for addressing each area as its own project.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Constance Lynn