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Comments: [External Email]Antelope and Tennant Fire Project

[External Email]

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Dear Project Leader Lisa Bousfield,

Dear Supervisor Smith and Project Leader Bousfield,

The Medicine Lake Highlands are one of the most spectacular, geologically diverse, culturally significant places in the nation. In fact, I've long been fascinated by the area, and am scheduled to visit and explore there in May.

The proposed Antelope Tennant project, with over 20,000 acres of commercial logging using heavy equipment and 8 miles of road construction on recovering post-fire soils, would be devastating! Post-fire logging does not contribute to the recovery of forest ecosystems. A strong consensus exists among fire ecologists that post-fire "salvage" logging harms and delays forest recovery.

I am appalled that the Environmental Assessment does not provide any site-specific information on wildlife, soil, archeology, botany or other resources. Additionally, the location, impacts and alternatives to widespread ground-based heavy equipment use throughout the project area are not quantified, documented or analyzed. One has to wonder if these shortcomings were intentional, because this clearly does not allow for meaningful public participation.

The area is home to the endangered gray wolf Beckworth Pack, Northern spotted owls, Great grey owls, goshawks, Pronghorn antelope and many other rare animals who are still recovering from the fires.

The remaining living trees and green forest stands are critical in providing habitat and food for surviving plants and animals. Please do not remove any living trees, especially as proposed with the so-called "sanitation/regeneration" prescription. Snags and mistletoe also provide habitat and food to wildlife.

You must re-open the public comment period when the surveys, specialist reports and analysis are completed, so that the public can provide more informed input on the project.

Klamath National Forest needs to more fully engage in the stated restoration objectives for the project, rather than focusing primarily upon logging activities.

Sincerely,
Gretchen Whisenand

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Gretchen Whisenand
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Santa Rosa, CA 95404