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Comments: [External Email]Antelope and Tennant Fire Project

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Dear Project Leader Lisa Bousfield,

Dear Supervisor Smith and Project Leader Bousfield,

The Medicine Lake Highlands are one of many spectacular, geologically diverse and culturally significant places in the nation. The proposed Antelope Tennant project, that includes over 20,000 acres of commercial logging with heavy equipment and 8 miles of road construction on recovering post-fire soils, would be devastating to this special area. It is a well-known fact that that post-fire logging does not contribute to the recovery of forests. In fact, it is undeniable that a strong consensus exists among fire ecologists that post-fire "salvage" logging harms and delays forest recovery.

I was a participant with forest ecologist a few years back in the Mendo, and one of the USFS foresters wondered, "why are the trees not growing as fast as they used to?" SOIL! The standard approach to logging forests is extractive, meaning a HUGE amount of biomass is taken from the soil, who is foundational to tree health and growth. Depleted soil = depleted trees.

The only truly sustainable system is one where the inputs don't come from somewhere else. No more fossil fuels to log, to build roads, to take life from the land who created it! Feed the soil!

I am DEEPLY concerned that the Environmental Assessment does not provide any site-specific information on wildlife, soil, archeology, botany or other components of the communities of life. This does not allow for meaningful public participation. Additionally, the location, impacts and alternatives to widespread ground-based heavy equipment use throughout the project area is not quantified, documented or analyzed. The area is home to the endangered gray wolf Beckworth Pack, Northern spotted owls, Great grey owls, goshawks, Pronghorn and many other rare animals that have likely already been impacted by the fires. Please re-open the public comment period when the surveys, specialist reports and analysis are completed, so that I and others can provide more informed input on the project.

The remaining living trees and green forest stands are exponentially critical in providing habitat for surviving plants and animals. Please do not remove any living trees, especially as proposed with the "sanitation/regeneration" prescription. Mistletoe provides habitat structure and benefits to wildlife.

I respectfully URGE the Klamath National Forest to fully engage in the stated RESTORATION objective for the project rather than focusing primarily upon logging activities, which would directly and cumulatively result in significant detrimental impacts to the life there.

Please avoid the significant impacts associated with extensive ground-based post-fire logging on thousands of acres and the construction of 8 miles of new logging roads, retain all living trees, provide the maximum retention of snags, and re-open the public comment period when the analysis is completed.

Labeling the need for this project as an "emergency" is deeply deceptive. The land does not need it.

Sincerely,

Brien Brennan

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