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First name: Robin

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Managers,

Thank you in advance for sending me the letter notifying me of the opportunity to contribute my thoughts on the Chimera project. After reading the Draft EA it is my opinion that Alternative C is the best option. I understand, and have seen, the impact of fire suppression on the biodiversity of ecosystems.

I feel strongly that Alt C is the most appropriate plan as it does not increase roads, and also does not include thins on slopes >40%. In my opinion, we currently have an out-of-control amount of ATV use in the Hills. And while I understand that with both Alt B and C there would not be an increase in the amount of ATV roads, without adequate oversight (which is the current situation); any roads, even if they are later blocked, only encourage ATV riders to illegally access the Forest.

In regards to thins on steep slopes, no matter how careful the contractor is, I see what I believe is substantial impact on the vegetation.

I also think that there is value in leaving larger diameter trees. I do not believe that the ecological importance of leaving the oldest trees has been adequately studied, especially on the BHNF. It seems that Alt C has a provision for leaving more of those larger trees. I believe the EA stated that there are no old growth trees in the Chimera area, but if we cut the oldest trees in the area, then the opportunity for the presence of trees to be defined old growth at some point will never occur.

Please approve Alt C! Thank you for this opportunity.