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Title:

Comments: I have recreated in this area and have past experience working seasonally with Wallowa-Whitman NF; I do not believe that a campaign of this size and scale is in the best interest of the forest, its wildlife, public recreation, or fire resiliency for the area. 17,586 acres - 27.47 square miles - of commercial logging, with additional road building, chaining for firebreaks, etc., amounts to a significant reduction of living biomass in an area which shares a border with an arid bioregion - Hells Canyon and the lower Ronde valley. This area is very important for cougars, bears, elk, deer, wolves, marten, and other mammals which take advantage of its remoteness. Also, by allowing cut selection from above 21" DBH the 'fire management' benefit of this harvest goes out the window, as it is precisely these large trees which are fire resilient. If this plan goes through as it is, the entire area will become a tinderbox of crowded young trees in less than 40 years -- in those places where regrowth is even possible. Elsewhere, the clearcuts on slopes, etc, will lose their loam and soil and remain bereft of canopy cover on towards the end of the century. This is not a good plan.