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Comments: Please protect the wild South Fork.

The plans will degrade mature forest habitat for cutthroat trout, lynx, and grizzly bears, and could seriously alter human presence in wildlands connected to the Gospel-Hump.

1. An Emergency Declaration is unwarranted. Labelling a standard logging project an emergency action is a misuse of government authority. Fire, insects, and disease are markers of any wild forest, not a cause for evading analysis and public participation.
2. Wildfire cannot be mitigated, controlled, or diminished by logging or thinning. In fact, larger openings can (as a secondary driver) increase fire intensity and rate of spread. This argument was used only ten air miles away, in 2019's Orogrande Community Fuels Reduction Project, in which a 200+ acre fuel break did not stop a wildfire that started west of the project in 2022 after logging was complete. More human infrastructure also increases the likelihood of human-caused ignition.
3. An Environmental Assessment (EA) is not good enough. An EIS, or Environmental Impact Study, is required to acknowledge and analyze the negative impacts of large-scale extraction projects.
4. This project accelerates the climate crisis. Intact, unlogged, mature and old-growth forests are a carbon store, one of the most cost-efficient "technologies" on Earth. Logging, including associated roadbuilding, thinning, and slash-burning pollutes our atmosphere and worsens the climate crisis. Logging is the leading carbon emitter on our national forests, far and above wildfire.
5. This project accelerates the biodiversity crisis.

Thank you.