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Comments:

Our organization strongly opposes this proposed logging project.

We have seen bad science and misinterpretations and deliberate evasions of law used to log what clearly were protected areas that resulted in enormous harm to the public here in Washington state. We see a similar situation here. The exploitive view of our forests and water resources is causing permanent damage to our future.

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.

Using wildfires as a reason to cut this piece of land is bad science, or rather, No science. 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.

Environmental laws are being ignored. 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. The current Environmental Assessment clearly does not do so.

We also emphasize that this project will only cause an acceleration of the ongoing climate crisis and loss of biodiversity. It is well known that 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.

In the midst of the greatest extinction of life in thousands of years, we need to protect life and habitat. Continued destruction of life will ultimately and inevitably harm humanity. We already are experiencing declines in public health and life expectancy. We cannot separate humanity from the natural systems that support it. We simply must begin to see our role as protectors and responsible stewards.

Please DO NOT LOG TWENTYMILE.