

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/4/2023 10:35:42 PM

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Comments: I oppose the Twentymile Project. If the "emergency" is that communities are threatened by wildfire, building logging roads and removing trees in the proposed area won't solve the problem.

The solution is, reroute the money and personnel to help homeowners harden their homes.

Trees and the soil beneath them store carbon, and mature trees store even more carbon. A mixed, multi-aged forest is a functioning ecosystem that stores carbon and moisture, supports diverse native species, and slows wildfires.

Wildfires are increasing in intensity NOT because of so-called "overgrown" forests but because carbon emissions accelerate climate-driven extreme weather events.

Forest officials' use of euphemisms such as "thinning," "strategic management," "treatment," "wildfire risk reduction" and other misinformation that instills fear in the public to justify Twentymile and other logging projects in our national forests does not change the scientific fact that logging emits a far greater amount of carbon than wildfires.

But you don't have to be a scientist. Use your common sense. So-called "thinning" doesn't slow a wildfire. Removing trees creates more open space for a wildfire to spread more quickly. You don't want to be camping in a "thinned" forest (or near slash from a clearcut!) if a wildfire is approaching.

We cannot allow forest officials to declare an "emergency" that just happens to provide a loophole for the Twentymile project to go forward without the "Environmental Impact Study" EIS required by law to analyze the negative impact on species. An "Environmental Assessment" EA is not an acceptable substitute.

Species ranging from carnivores to cutthroat trout depend on an unlogged forest for habitat, cover, and sustenance. If a fire does break out naturally, as has happened in forests over centuries, the forest and species will be fine. Naturally occurring fires are a necessary part of the cycle for a forest and native species. And some species thrive in a postfire habitat.

Do not go forward with the Twentymile project. If you want to protect homes in communities, then help homeowners harden their homes and leave our national forests intact.

<https://wfca.com/articles/home-hardening/>