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First name: Anne
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Comments: Hi Meg,

I just finished reading about the Midnight Restoration Project in the MV News. When I saw "designation by prescription" I was taken aback. For years, industry has tried to get the FS to implement designation by prescription because it gives the purchaser a lot of decision making ability. It also tends to allow loggers to remove more valuable trees even if the agency might not have wanted those trees cut.

Paint, perhaps a bit expensive, was the best way to prevent theft. With D by P, they have a plausible excuse when caught. They will never be prosecuted. D by D was bad enough. But now D by P? The FS was always reluctant to employ these methods because it was a bit like the fox guarding the henhouse. I guess they gave in to industry.

Back in the late 80's and early 90's the FS implemented many procedures to prevent timber theft. Over the years, as FS employees have retired and new employees (with little memory of all the ways loggers cheated the system) have been hired, it appears as though the agency has steadily been going backwards in terms of log accountability. I sincerely hope that there will be robust and regular sale administration/inspection with this project.

I know I have been retired for a while and maybe D by P or D by D has become the norm[hellip]. however I strongly suggest using less of these methods and using more paint to prevent theft and taking of undesignated timber.

Just my two cents as a retired timber theft investigator and longtime local.

Thanks for "listening" Meg!

Anne