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Title:

Comments: I understand that the original reasoning of the proposal's approach in trying to create habitats that encourage diversity of tree ages, diversity of wildlife and habitat, as well as encouraging particular tree and wildlife species, while discouraging others - in trying to control and tip the balance of the forest makeup to better suit our chosen aims.

That's on one side of the scale.

And that needs to be weighed against the knowledge that we have, conservatively (according to the IPCC*) 10 years, realistically more like 6-8 years, to not only slow the worst effects of excessive carbon in the atmosphere but reverse it in order to avoid an unliveable planet for our species. The habitats that will be created by the harvesting of larger, more mature trees on the public lands of the Telephone Gap area may successfully help those chosen tree and wildlife species to thrive, but it could well be at the expense of our own species' survival.

In considering those two sides on the scale, what has tipped it towards timber harvest for the past few decades? The timber industry? Recreational huts companies? Hunting groups? That's a lot of thumbs on the scale.

How about we now factor in the weight of our children. How much are their lives on a livable planet worth? Grandkids, let's get them on the scale. Sure they're small, maybe non-existent as yet, but still - they deserve to be on that scale as well. How many thumbs do they outweigh? Any? Some? All?

I'm not a scientist or a forestry expert, but I have a very strong moral compass and I know that a single life is worth more than whatever profit could be made on board lumber, biomass, and pulp. And the survival of an entire species, our species, and future generations of our species, outweigh that same profit, no matter how high.

As representatives of the U.S. public, the USFS's most sacred responsibility is to care for and sustain the forest for present and future generations. That's its self-declared mission**.

I would say that tips the scale back in the favor of preserving the mature growth on public land so that it can continue its work of saving the planet from us/for us. For the sake of your kids and mine, I hope that you agree.

*Intergovernmental panel on Climate Change

***The mission of the Forest Service is to SUSTAIN the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's FOREST and grasslands to meet the needs of PRESENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS