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Comments: This concerns the proposed Soda/Baker fuel reduction project.

I am concerned with the tendency to excessively remove vegetation under the rubric of fuel reduction. When "only scattered trees remain" (as stated) the overstory has not been retained, but has been essentially eliminated. The primarily South/ Southeast aspects in this project area will then be hotter, dryer, and more open to wind. The integrity of the native understory will be reduced and the invasive, more flammable invasive plants will increase. Biodiversity will be discouraged. Groundwater and associated springs/seeps will be reduced. Any new road construction, even "temporary" is questionable if the given purpose of the project actually is fuel reduction and not logging by another word. There is a narrow threshold to be wary of. There are classic examples of both here in my neighborhood on Baker Creek. In a previous forestry/ fuel reduction agreement the high ground water area along Baker Creek has been left immune from treatment. It needs to stay that way as an old growth refugia. Thanks for your consideration and and in the words of Smoky Bear "Be Careful."