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First name: MELODI

Last name: MOLT

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The following are my comments regarding the Northwest Forest Plan Amendment #64745 and our forest health in general.

In recent years, our forests have experienced catastrophic fires. Put as much science to it that you want, but the fact remains, the loggers of long ago cut forests and in areas, the forest was clear cut. The fires were contained and stopped in these areas. We did not have the huge fires we are witnessing today. Think about it, if the forest was on fire, the loggers were out of a job, so they put the fire out. Today, the contract fire fighters are out of a job if they put the fire out!!

I see in the plan there are to be areas of thinning. Such a joke. Thinning in the forest is like a postage stamp size in the ocean. It will need to be done again in 10 years. In stead of paying people to thin, you could hire a logging company and GET PAID instead of paying.

Is protecting a few old trees (old growth areas) really worth burning the forest to ashes?

In the past, logging roads were NOT closed, creating access to the fires. The forest service has closed many roads with the excuse they cannot maintain them. This is not an acceptable excuse to close a road. Anyone going to the forest should be prepared to deal with forest roads.

Our forests have the potential to pay for the Forest Service and their programs. I don't see this happening. The forest service is a drain on my tax dollars. Their budget is mostly used for fighting fires, not preventing fires. Use the fire fighting budget to hire loggers, not fire fighters.

In summary, to get healthier forests, we need to get back to logging. Logging created jobs and money for our local schools in addition to containing forest fires.