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Comments: The USDA Forest Service (USFS) has greatly harmed to our public forests over a century of mismanagement. "Get the cut out" has been the driving mandate, not forest or community health.

As a volunteer working on trail maintenance in the Shasta-Trinity and Klamath forests, and as a climate scientist, I have been appalled by what I've seen. Forests are either logged, or fire has been suppressed leading to megafires that kill both people and destroy whole forests. Laws are ignored. Surely, as the final remnants of ancient forests disappear and the climate changes it is finally time to change direction. As the USFS is a captured agency with entrenched interests that undermine change, however, there is not much hope.

Jim Furnish, former Deputy Chief of the USFS and an expert on forest management, is highly critical of USFS management. To make amends the USFS must:

- (1) Protect all remaining mature and old-growth trees from logging.
- (2) Increase the use of beneficial fires to restore forests and maintain their health.
- (3) Cease forest thinning operations that often cover for timber harvests, and that damage living trees and soils beneath them.
- (4) Work with Tribes as much as possible in these restoration efforts, and promote indigenous cultural fire.
- (5) Also work with Tribes and communities to build restoration workforce capacity in the regions that have been most harmed by a century of USFS mismanagement of our national lands.