

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/28/2024 9:49:35 PM

First name: Antone

Last name: Holmquist

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been recreating and working in the national forests now almost 50 years, not much in the life of a forest, but still time to see how forest management has progressed or sometimes regressed. I worked for the Clearwater National Forest seasonably in 1977, 1978 and 1988, planting trees, thinning, cruising timber, stand exam and fighting fires among other jobs. I could see the damage the logging and road building in the previous decades had done. In 1979 I worked for the Tongass National Forest on Prince of Whales Island and got an eyeful of extremely massive clear cuts. Is that what we need in our forests? Seems to me the Forest Service is going backwards with the massively increased projected annual cuts in the Nez Perce and Clearwater National Forest plans. I am also alarmed to see the decrease in buffers while logging near streams. Have we not learned our lessons in protecting our fish and wildlife?

I find the forest service's labeling timber harvest as some kind of fire protection disingenuous. Logging leaves large amounts of slash and unwanted logging debris, susceptible to fires at least as much as intact forests. Sometimes forest fires are caused by logging equipment or because of the road access during logging. In 1977 and 1988 I fought fires which started out as "controlled burns", which went out of control.

Size of clear cuts: Shamefully increased.

I am an advocate of more wilderness protection on the roadless areas, much more than what is proposed.

Logging is a major contributor to greenhouse gases and intact forests are carbon sinks. Keeping the carbon in our forests seems a no brainer; 200 million board feet a year target, hideous idea!

I could go on, but I think I have made my objections to this plan quite evident.