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First name: Charles

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to participate.

Several months ago, I saw a request for comments on a program to clear all dead, dying, or leaning trees with 200 feet of any public road. I believe this would be an excellent start.

We are grateful to have a cabin on Forest Service land in the Bumping River drainage of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. For a reason unknown to me, public wood cutting is prohibited in this drainage. This has lead to a huge buildup of down dead trees. This, combined with restrictions on any clearing of hazardous trees near our cabins, amplifies the fire danger within the entire drainage. If these restrictions could be reasonably modified, I believe the wildfire resilience of this area would benefit without much expense to the Forest Service.

Another concern that is prevalent in this basin is the rate of dying of the existing forest. Each year, the increased number of dead, large trees is discouraging. This also increases the fire risk. We fear that soon we will be camping in a National Dead Forest.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.