Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/13/2024 4:37:32 PM
First name: Howard
Last name: A Brown
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Who will do the "vegetation management?" The road construction? The tree selection? Will they pay to do so or get paid to do so? The notice says that "all felled merchantable timber would be removed." What would be done with it? Who would receive any proceeds? Will anyone else gain or lose financially or otherwise because of the proposed project? Approximately how much money is expected to be involved? Citizens and taxpayers should be able to follow the money and understand the reasons why a project, especially one without any obvious necessity, is being proposed.

Where will merchantable timber be taken? Slash "removed as biomass?" What will be the net energy balance and transportation carbon emissions of these removals and the vegetation management activities? What will the carbon emission and capture impacts of the vegetation management itself? The climate impacts of carbon emissions and changes to carbon capture are central to the future of the earth. Again citizens should be advised of likely impacts of the proposed project.

Please revise the notice of proposed action (and subsequent analysis) to include financial and climate impact information and restart the comment period following that revision.

The notice of proposed action says that the project area includes substantial spruce/fir forest. This climax vegetation requires at least 100 to 200 years without logging or other disturbance to establish and must be considered as "old growth." The Forest Service is currently separately studying old growth forests and potential policy regarding them. The spruce/fir portion of the proposal should be put on hold until that study is completed and subsequent policies adopted so as not to violate any such policies.