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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi Noah, Here are a few comments and concerns about the proposed project. The 416 Fire mitigation was haphazard and destructive. The clear cut burn zones were not chosen well and many large Juniper and Pinon trees were unnecessarily downed and now I have some erosion concerns on the hillside overlooking my house. Those large fallen trees still remain up there and now are a fire hazard if a fire did come through. Additionally the clearcuts are now thick with juvenile scrub oaks. I am a big proponent of thinning the Oaks as it allows them to become large trees. This needs maintenance beyond just one year I believe. If a fire crew simply clear cut the oak they come back worse than before. I would recommend grazing goats yearly to maintain the scrub oak baby shoots. If the baby shoots are eaten and the large established oaks persist, then we will have a nice oak forest one day. Look at the trees around my house and you'll see how big and nice they can get. There is a small herd locally I can connect you with. My other concern is your mention of fishing access to Junction Creek. The fish population is not super strong and I believe to be mostly native. If we start over fishing this stream the consequences of fishing pressure on the fish and also fishermen leaving line and trash becomes an issue. I too am an avid fly fisherman. I do not believe Junction Creek can support this. I do not fish in the creek because I know the fish population is not super strong and with all the willows, leaving trash lines and flies behind in the branches and willows becomes an issue. Finally, I would just encourage no controlled burning in the hidden valley. The consequences of a fire out of control would be severe. I am for thinning oaks and I think that's where the effort should be done. Leaving some oaks behind to get larger is also key. An issue about the trail head. It has become too busy. Many people try to park here and it becomes dangerous. We need signs telling cars to slow down, we need bags for dog waste and serviced trash cans like Junction Creek trailhead. Groups like DEVO use this all the time and that becomes a parking nightmare with all the parents coming to pick up their kids. Additionally, the school bus uses the parking lot to turn around sometimes. I haven't seen this recently but I know it was done in the past, maybe something was said to the school district? I think this lot should be paved and also the number of cars allowed to park here be limited due to safety concerns. THANK YOU