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First name: Jeremy

Last name: Newman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings Forest Service,

I am a 24 year resident of the Twisp River Drainage and have spent extensive amounts of time within the boundaries of the drainage. I have an education background in Botany, Forest Ecology and Forest Policy. While I agree that the Twisp River Drainage needs the thinning of small trees and the return of fire to help restore balance to the plant ecosystem and create resilience to the hot dry conditions created by climate change, I am greatly concerned with any cutting of large trees. The Late Successional Reserve that has been well established in the drainage needs to have the big old trees protected. Any trees over 21" should be eliminated from cutting.

A century of fire suppression and selective logging, large patches of forest are dominated by small dense stands of mostly Douglas Fir. These areas could benefit from selective thinning and burning. However, areas of high-quality habitat with older trees also need to be treated carefully. These late-successional reserves already contain complex forest structure and there is very limited rationale for cutting larger trees in these areas. From the beginning of this Project I have been critical of how commercial objectives have influenced a project that is meant to be restorative in nature. The overall goal of this project should be to help the forest be more resilient in the face of drought and warmer temperatures from climate change. One of my most significant criticisms of this Environmental Assessment is to close exceptions that allow the logging of trees up to 25" in diameter. Large and old trees are already deficient in this landscape and should be kept standing.

Please take old trees out of the cutting program. We have so little of this habitat left. It is precious.

Jeremy Newman