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First name: Anne

Last name: Minden

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am generally supportive of using thinning to improve Forest health and protect local communities from fire threats. I am totally opposed to allowing the logging of trees over 21 inches DBH. I am especially opposed to giving a logger the option to cut mistletoe infected trees up to 25 inches unless there is prior approval of a certified timber sale administrator and it not a cover for logging larger trees. Additionally, if logging is to be allowed in LSR, the Forest Service MUST mark leave trees. To allow DxP in this area without marking leave trees is asking for unauthorized cutting of larger trees. The problem in general with this project and other similar projects is the utter lack of oversight when the logging occurs. The Forest Service has abdicated its duty to have enough sale administration (actual certified timber sale administrators and certified harvest inspectors) personnel on the ground to ensure that the job is done properly. The agency is allowing the fox to guard the henhouse by its lack of supervision with personnel who actually understand the logging industry and all the ways that operators and purchasers can cheat the government and the public if inclined and given the opportunity. The agency has gone BACKWARDS from the mid-1990's when the agency completely tightened up its rules due to rampant theft and mismanagement. I feel that history is repeating itself in terms of how the agency manages timber sales and restoration projects. People who remembered the reasoning behind particular policies and procedures have retired and have been replaced by a whole crop of employees who have no perspective on past events. Do yourselves and the public a big favor and mark leave trees on this project- Particularly if you are logging in LSR. Hire more certified sale administrators and hold the logger's accountable for unauthorized cutting.