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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to share my concerns about the Midnight Restoration Project. My primary concern relates to the preservation of older larger trees. Large trees are deficient in this landscape and are an essential component of maintaining the structure and function of the forest. These trees can withstand fire and drought and play an important role in storing carbon.

My understanding of forestry practices is that logging should be minimized on steep slopes. Restoration is about preventing soil damage and preventing erosion. Practices such as cable logging put old growth trees at risk through girdling and significantly promote erosion.

I am supportive of the judicious use of prescribed fire, thinning of small diameter trees, thinning of the forest during winter months and the protection of lynx and spotted owl habitat.

As extensive scientific research indicates thinning small diameter trees followed by regular prescribed burning is one of the most effective ways to control fire on the landscape. When fires do burn through these areas, they burn at low and moderate intensities that stay out of the canopy and maintain the ecological function of the forest. With properly implemented thinning and burning, linear, unnatural shaded fuel breaks (areas along roads that are thinned more intensively) become unnecessary as there are numerous anchor and control points in the forest itself from which to fight fire.