

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2024 2:27:34 AM

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Organization:

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Comments: As a full-time community member of the Methow Valley, I am writing to express my reservations against the Midnight Restoration Project as it is currently written. Of greatest concern to me is the allowance to cut large trees greater than 20 inches in diameter. Large trees play a pivotal role in ecosystems, providing habitat for diverse species, mitigating climate change through carbon sequestration, and maintaining soil stability. Time and time again, scientists have found that these large trees are the best suited to withstand wildfires and should be protected.

Secondly, the slash piles that timber companies leave after harvesting timber put the community at significantly risk for rapidly accelerating wildfire. If the goal of the Midnight Restoration Project truly is a healthy and resilient forest, then the timber companies should manage and dispose of the associated slash piles.

Thank you