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Comments: Logging and road building increase the rate at which exotic invasive plants spread. They should be aggressively managed. All exotic invasive species threaten the quality of timber for future sales. Exotic invasive vines are a profound threat to future timber sales because they kill trees.

Units 50 and 52 are quite healthy and support species found in Rich Cove ecosystems. Those need to be preserved and should be removed from the plan. Less ecologically valuable acreage could be substituted for these units.

I build with wood and support some logging. Removing large trees to allow smaller trees to grow is an antiquated rationale for logging because it unnecessarily reduces ecosystem stability as well the ability to grow healthy trees to log indefinitely in the future. The research of Suzanne Simard, PhD, Forest and Conservation Scientist at the University of British Columbia, and others demonstrates that 30% of the trees should be left in place AND those need to be the largest trees. I know this contradicts historic forestry education and possibly antiquated USFS policy, but it is the current state of the science. Those trees support the fungal network and allow continued communication in the soil microbiome, making regrowth far more successful. Protecting 30% of trees, and those being the largest, would support repeated logging the area farther into the future, and create more long-term economic benefit, than any other approach.

Thank you for your consideration. I appreciate what you do.