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Comments: I continue to be supportive of the overall objectives of the Larabee Hat Vegetation Project. However, I am disappointed in the proposed commercial timber harvest volume. Employing sound and proven forest management treatments across the project area would significantly increase the commercial timber volume available for the market and substantially reduce the loss of resource values when fire is reintroduced back into the landscape. Before a final decision is made, I urge the Forest Service to give reconsideration to expanding prudent forest management treatments across all the acres in the project area that would support commercial timber harvest.

Unfortunately, because of the previous lack of forest management across the project area, there is significant acreage that no longer holds salvageable commercial timber. The reintroduction of managed fire offers the best option to rehabilitate this ground and protect forest resources from future wildfires. However, the subject acres have an unnatural accumulation of heavy fuels that greatly increases the difficulty of controlling fire. I would suggest that the Forests Service develop a detailed project-specific wildfire contingency plan and an air shed management plan for this project, which should be included in the final decision documentation.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Larabee Hat Vegetation Project.