

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/28/2024 1:29:12 PM

First name: Peter

Last name: Reifel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have lived in the Southern Oregon area nearly all my life. Now that I am retired, my wife and I enjoy taking our 2 horses out for trail rides in the National Forest. Prior to my retiring, I was a heavy Equipment mechanic that worked on logging equipment in the National Forest. I have a lifetime of experience observing the Forest and how it has changed. Please don't assume that because I have a logging background that all I can see when I visit the Forest is that it should all be logged. I know there needs to be a balance of treating the forest while not over-treating areas (rape the forest for profit). What I am seeing now, especially in the wilderness areas, is a disaster. Both my wife and I know that our most treasured places to ride will soon be gone. There is no doubt. The forest will burn because the growth is so thick that there will be no stopping the fire. It will be total devastation. Mother Nature historically thinned the forest with fire. We have suppressed fire to the point where the forest is so overpopulated that, even if intense treatment started NOW, there is so much of it that needs to be treated I don't know how it can ever be accomplished. However, some of the Forest and Wilderness can be saved. Anyone with even a basic understand of the Forest ecosystem can see what is going on. You must save as much as possible by thinning the at-risk forest and, hopefully, save some of it. We take lots of pictures when we go out so we can show our great grandkids what the forest looked like before the fire that is inevitable. Please try to, at least, save some of the forest by treating it now.