Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/20/2024 4:00:00 AM First name: Kate Last name: McMichael Organization: Title: Comments: Dear USFS decision-makers:

As someone whose property burned in one of the 2020 Labor Day fires in Oregon--where our old trees were not spared just because they were old--and who has been surrounded by fires on federal forests every year since, it seems utterly counterproductive to put MORE bureaucracy in the way of active management of federal forests. Old growth forests are in more danger of dying from fire, insects, and disease than from thinning or fuels treatments. Neglect is not the answer. Red tape is not the answer. More delays in actively caring for our federal forests is not the answer.

PLEASE stop putting more energy into bureaucracy than forest management. PLEASE put the actual health and care of our federal forests--from new growth to old--at the top of your priority list. PLEASE stop confusing caring ABOUT forests with caring FOR them.

Active forest management is a climate-smart solution. Please use it.

Thank you.