

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/26/2024 5:33:36 PM

First name: Joana

Last name: Kirchhoff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: "We agree with some of the experimentation, but we're particularly concerned about thinning for fire risk in mature forests, especially those that are already developing some complexity and inherent resilience. From the ecological modeling that has been carried out for this planning area, we expect there might be a temporary reduction in fire risk in certain fire scenarios through some of the thinning work, but we are concerned that these impacts will be short-lived due to re-growth of vegetation and ineffective in the face of high-velocity wind-driven fires. With regards to mature forests, we're also concerned about the introduction of invasive species (a common result of timber harvest), immediate destruction of arboreal or soil-based habitats currently in use, increased understory temperatures, and decreased understory moisture profiles.

Although the protection of some of the older forests is a major win, there is still more we can do to protect complex mature forests and large trees (unique habitat features) in the watershed.

I'm asking the Forest Service to:

- *Drop the 549 acres of remaining complex mature forests from the harvest plans;

- *Protect all Douglas-firs trees with a 30" diameter or more in matrix stands; and

- *Provide a no-cut buffer of 1.5 to 2 drip lines on all trees with a 40" diameter or more to protect their root systems from the negative impacts of heavy machinery."

Source-Cascade Forest Conservancy