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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Timber Harvest Decision-Makers,

I am very concerned about some of the details of the planned Little White Salmon Forest Harvest. I have learned that you are protecting some of the old growth in this area, but I also understand you are doing a large-scale experiment on forest resiliency with this harvest by planning for extensive thinning that would likely have dire consequences for the health of the forest and wildlife.

Specifically, I would like to request the following:

1) Protect the 549 acres of remaining complex mature forests, and drop them from the harvest;

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

and

3) 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.

These additional actions have been researched and will make the harvest considerably more responsible and protective to our essential old growth trees and habitats. Some of the plans you have in place seem more suited to east Cascade forests, and can have unintended terrible consequences for a west side forest -- like expansion of invasive species and compromising the overall health of the old growth forests you are already planning to protect.

Please do more to make the Little White Salmon Timber Harvest appropriate to the western Cascades and to the long-term health of our essential old and older growth forests.

Thank you for your consideration.

Heather G. Gordon