Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/28/2024 4:16:03 PM
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Comments: Dear Forest Service

I am concerned about the environmental impact of certain aspects of project #63961. I am especially concerned with the thinning of trees in mature forests where fire resiliency is developing by virtue of the maturity of the forest itself. These more mature forests should be encouraged as an inherent safeguard against fires. Specifically what I would like to see is for this project 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.

Thinning should be part of any forest fire plan, but we must also encourage mature forest growth areas to ensure the long-term success and health of our forests and ecosystems.

Thank you for your time and consideration.