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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Little White Salmon watershed is a diverse and unique transitional forest that sits between wet westside forests and dry eastside forests. I am writing to encourage you to protect mature and old-growth forest within this area from logging. I am concerned about thinning for fire risk in mature forests, especially those that are already developing some complexity and inherent resilience. I have read that from the ecological modeling that has been carried out for this planning area, there might be a temporary reduction in fire risk in certain fire scenarios through some of the thinning work, but I am 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, I am 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.

I support the following components of this project: road decommissioning, repairing unauthorized public-created trails, and repairing stream crossings impacted by abandoned temporary roads.

I encourage 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-inch 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-inch diameter or more to protect their root systems from the negative impacts of heavy machinery.