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Comments: Thank you for allowing me to comment on the Rumbling Owl project. While I'm am a resident of Idaho, I have a connection to the area as my daughter and son-in-law live in Bigfork and have 10 acres backing onto Crane Mountain Road in the vicinity of the Bug Creek Fuels project.

I have been a forester for nearly 50 years with an undergraduate degree from Humboldt State and a Masters in Forest Management from University of Idaho. I worked in public land management (Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management) for 35 years and have been a member of a collaborative group advising the Payette National Forest in Idaho for the past 12 years.

When the Bug Creek project was being scoped I met with the silviculturalist involved in the project on land directly adjacent to my daughter's property to discuss the harvest prescription which had been recently leave tree marked. The prescription for the unit was shelterwood harvest leaving behind large western white pine and western larch trees in order to regenerate those more fire tolerant species. I pointed out to the silviculturalist that there were also many large Douglas-fir trees in the stand that also have fire tolerance characteristics that could help fill in holes where large larch and pine trees were nonexistent. By doing so, it would result in a more uniform state of well spaced large fire-tolerant trees that would be much more acceptable to the adjacent property owners and the public in general when compared to clearcutting those areas.

Fortunately they agreed and returned to mark many large Douglas-fir trees. While the unit has not yet been harvested, I'm confident that the results will be better accepted by all concerned.

So, I'm asking the you look for opportunities to do the same in those units of the Rumbling Owl project where these same conditions exist. I see that there are a few thousand acres of Douglas-fir dominated stands within the project area, so I assume there are areas dominated by larch and pine that will also contain large Douglas-fir that could be used to fill in holes in shelterwood and seed tree harvest prescriptions.