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Organization:

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Comments: Hello,

I appreciate the job you are doing and support you getting through these difficult, uncertain times. I have been a hiker and Oregon and Washington for about 50 years. I am a plant enthusiast. It is plants that make our world beautiful. In fact, plants have made our world what it is and allow us to survive. Removing trees in a wholesale manner not only is visually disturbing, it destroys whole habitats for the creatures living there. Can we continue to treat forests as nothing more than lumber?

So, not being able to understand everything regarding the EIS but have been told that Alternative B is the "balanced" option, I guess I am for B, with the caution that the most amount of existing old-growth be protected.

I lived in Bend OR for 10 years. I have seen the work of USFS to reduce "fire load," which, from what I saw, meant mowing down ALL the understory and preserving a few older Ponderosa pines. It looked disgusting.

Where are the smaller birds supposed to nest and live? Is it necessary to mow down all the understory?

I am not a trained restoration ecologist. But what I do know is that every location is different. I do not like that I kept hearing that the same treatment had to be applied to every forest situation. Each place is unique. Please employ the lightest touch possible when deciding what to do about reducing fire risk and work with local jurisdictions to not permit dwellings in areas where it is only a matter of time will burn. Or else, at a minimum, require strict building codes. There are ways to reduce the chances of houses burning from the inside out, which could determine whether structures survive a fire or not.