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Comments: I am a forest pathologist and botanist who cares about the forest for recreational opportunities, and the wildlife, plants, and ecosystems held with in the forest and non-forest grasslands and steppelands.

I strongly support tribal inclusion in forest decisions, as well as ecologically based beneficial fire management.

The Forest Service needs to include tribes and listen to their culturally built-up wisdom from centuries in this place. Their knowledge is valuable as is the respect for their cultural and social practices (multiple use).

I very strongly oppose increased logging and increased age of trees allowable for logging.

Mature and old growth forests are more valuable for their carbon storage and ecological resilience, as well as fire protection, contribution to science as dendrochronology and fire history resources, and the recreational and beneficial human emotion aspect of being in the large trees. Old growth and mature trees are habitat to many species large and small, many of whom have the potential for helping humans in the future, and who may be helping us now in small ways we are not aware of. As we cut down more of our forest we lose future possibilities for ecosystem health and well being.

Increased logging also decreases carbon storage as well as the associated machinery adding more carbon to the air with harvest, transport, and processing. This impacts climate change, which in turn impacts all life, including warming waters and decreasing streamflow in cold water trout streams. This, as well as harming the fish in question, also harms fisherpeople and recreationalists (one of the multiple uses). Decreased streamflow also decreases drinking water for communities. This decrease is long term, as water runs off of logged hillsides faster than undisturbed hillsides causing flooding and drought. I have seen the impact logging has on streams, it causes huge silty runoff in the spring, often overflowing roads, and lowered flows in the summer because the trees are not there to slow the water to allow it to absorb into the ground and then be slowly released over the summer.

Economically logging is also a non-starter. Logging on National Forest also costs the taxpayers money. It is very difficult to sell a timber sale for enough money for both the logger and the taxpayer makes anything. When the external costs of community and climate change are considered it comes out about \$100,000 in the red per log truck load.

It harms communities with its boom/bust cycling, creating unhealthy communities both socially and physically. Modern logging requires people to sit in large noisy equipment for days on end, getting fatter and less healthy unless they make an effort to get exercise. The loggers that I interacted with when I was a kid in Montana also had a macho attitude towards others that was not desirable in a community (at least that was my impression as a young child).

In short, there are many, many, reasons-scientific, social, economic, and emotional, that mature and old growth trees should not be logged. There are just as many reasons that the tribes should be included.

The Forest Service needs to include the tribes in decision-making, decrease the stand age that can be logged to the smallest commercial trees (ex. 8-20 inches Diameter at Breast Height), and stop allowing clearcuts except for in ecological types there that was the native fire disturbance, such as lodgepole pine (*Pinus contorta*). Above all the harvesting of mature and old growth trees must stop.