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First name: Margaret

Last name: Durner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Public Land Manager,

I truly believe our forests, worldwide, are more valuable as climate resiliency buffers, than anything else. No one can deny we are seeing extreme weather behavior all over the globe. Our remaining forests belong to the global community and need to be left in tack for the future health of our planet.

I worked for the USDA-Forest Service for 33 years and see the cumulative effects of "vegetative management projects". Logging, thinning, clearcutting, even salvaging of burned areas, contribute to rise in temperatures, changing of wind and air flow patterns and destabilizing of snowpack. All in the name of fire prevention or conversion to tree plantations or rangeland. Those are only a few of the outcomes of outdated vegetation management practices. Include the loss of habitat to wildlife, our avian friends, as well as the whole ecosystem of microbiome and pollinators/insects who connect and support all life world wide. Our living forests support clean air and clean water, as well as thermocover in the winter and cooler environments in heat of summer. It is not hard to see the effects of previous and current vegetation management contributing to increasing extreme weather and destabilization of the health of our living world.

We really are one. Life supports life. Positive energy radiates out into the universe. The earth is our home, physically and spiritually. Remove one link in the chain and the strength of the whole is compromised. It sounds like a cliché but it is not. We are watching our living world unravel at our own hands. Please, choose life. Treat every living component with love and respect, because that is how life expands. Maybe it is not too late to slow down the unraveling of the very systems that support us all.

I know this sounds woo woo and emotional, but when you work in the woods for decades and reach 76 years in age, you see glimpses of the bigger picture. We are all connected. If every decision we make is in honor of life, ALL life, we all will thrive. Thank you for your time.

A concerned citizen.