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First name: Martha

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service,

Please take into consideration the following in determining whether this project should go forward:

Advertised as a categorical exclusion due to fuels reduction, the project proposal at this stage is very short on details, only generalized treatment (clearcut/improvement/thinning etc.) The vast majority of it is advertised as a green timber sale (though with limited information) rather than a focused fuels treatment.

I am concerned that there was no collaboration with YVFC, especially given that collaboration is a key requirement under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act. I am told that YVFC requested this collaboration back in July, when they began noticing trees being painted, often in mature and old-growth forests.

The proposed units are primarily located adjacent to private property, yet landowners have not been contacted to discuss how shared management goals, under the "Good Neighbor Authority," could be integrated.

It is important to know which specific species and size classes are being targeted for treatment in each unit. I know that YVFC looks forward to discussing the anticipated effect of more than 2500 acres of commercial logging upon grizzly bear recovery, and discussions of weed control and abatement strategies. They are keen to explore how slash piles might be managed from proposed logging, and the aridifying effects of clearcutting and soil compaction from skidding and other heavy mechanized equipment. They look forward to examining the degree of fuel loading in the proposed units and gathering data on stocking levels, basal area, species composition, and the desired future conditions as outlined in the Forest Plan, using the best available science.

I agree with YVFC's assertion that home hardening is the best thing homeowners can do to protect against climate-induced wildfire risks.

Thank you,
Martha Sullivan