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Comments: Dear Sirs

I am a member of the Yaak Valley Forest Council and I concur with them that collaboration with YVFC has been lacking in the formulation of this project and that some elements of this project may have been conducted, such as the marking of trees for cutting prior to any such collaboration.

Also it should be important to consider the interests of the local landowners as well. There seems to be no mention of scenic impacts or mitigation therof; clearcuts can be eyesores as well as poorly reconstructed roads without such mitigation.

I have a great interest in the Yaak Valley for the value of the Old Growth Forests which it contains. In fact the Yaak Valley has great potential to become a Climate Refuge for Carbon retention as well as for returning species such as the woodland caribou that depend on these forests.

I feel aware of a hypocrisy when I read about how Old Growth Forests are downplayed in stature especially in when addressing "Forest Health" and measures to reduce fire risk. The Old Growth exists often because it HAS been resistant to fire in the past and that is why it still exists today. So why must it be compromised in any way? I am suspicious of the section in your writeup: "Specifically, thinning combined with prescribed burning, compared with no treatment, was considered the most effective strategy, while prescribed burning alone could scorch and kill many of the old trees intended for retention (reviewed in (Kolb et al. 2007), Ritchie et al. 2008)". Again, the old trees are there because they have resisted fire for so long so why would they not now? Also the references quoted deal with Ponderosa Pines, not to mention other species.

I feel that you must be honest, try the best to leave the remaining Old Growth intact with the least intervention, set the conditions to restore the rest of the landscape to foster an eventual return to conditions where the big trees dominate with a modest fire resistant understory.

Peter C Guynn