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First name: Karen

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Comments: 10 January 2026Dear Ranger Davies, The destructive Moccasin Granite Project should be withdrawn because it is contrary to science as well as the forests' evolutionary history. There is no evidence that logging reduces wildfire threat and "promotes forest health". Studies of forest fires show the opposite: that logging will increase fire damage to the forest by drying it out and allowing the greater spread of blown embers as well as increasing its very chance of having a wildfire: logging creates roads and 84% of fires are started by humans. For a review of 1500 fires comparing fire severity to the forests' protected status, see: Bradley, C. M., C. T. Hanson, and D. A. DellaSala. 2016. Does increased forest protection correspond to higher fire severity in frequent-fire forests of the western United States? *Ecosphere* 7(10):e01492. 10.1002/ecs2.1492 Structures of concern can be protected by management of vegetation within 100 feet as well as by reducing the flammability of the structure itself. Plus this would cost taxpayers a small fraction of the current giveaway of public forests to private corporations. The forest has existed just fine for millions of years without any human management. The plants and animals that have lived in it don't need this destruction either. Before Europeans arrived in North America, large areas were covered with forest, including about half of the U.S. These maps show the extent of old growth forests: Stand-replacing fires will happen due to climatic conditions of high temperatures, high winds and drought. These fires cannot be stopped by anything, even the Columbia River in 2017. In any case, fires renew forests, permitting suites of wildlife and plants that depend on wildfires to give them the conditions they need. This process has been part of their evolution, unlike logging. Please withdraw the Moccasin Granite Project. Yours, Karen Klitz