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Comments: I am a retired biologist living in Bend, OR. I am very strongly opposed to the Austin Project proposed by the USFS in the Malheur and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests.

This huge commercial logging project will cause untold damage to the ecosystems currently protecting our watersheds and climate amelioration and recreation. Why do we continue to let the profits of the few harm the livelihoods of the many?

The most outrageous part of the Austin Project is the inclusion of eliminating the previous protection for old growth trees and trees over 21 inches DBH. These older fire resistant ecosystem supporting trees are of much greater value if they remain standing. Please continue to protect them.