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First name: Mark

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Greetings, I am a farmer who cares about safeguarding our ecosystems.

I oppose the Austin Timber sale project of commercial logging, and I ask you to please stop this sale immediately.

I'm concerned that the Forest Service is using loopholes-- Forest Plan amendments-- to ignore their own Forest Plan standards. I'm deeply concerned that the planned Forest Plan amendments would:

Allow logging of large trees greater than 20" in diameter

Allow commercial logging next to streams and within the "Riparian Habitat Conservation Area" buffers that are meant to protect streams from logging

Allow commercial logging in mature and old forests ("Late and Old Structure" forest) in two types of old growth designations

Reduce the amount of forest cover required within Wildlife Connectivity corridors

Reduce forest cover for elk in summer range

Retain an excessive road system that violates the road density standards

Violate visual quality standards by clearcutting within sight of a scenic section of highway 26

The Forest Service is clearly targeting the largest trees and the mature and old forests that are left on the landscape.

Please End this risk to our finest forests. Thank you.