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Comments:

OPA

I am opposed to this project on the grounds that it falsely calls it a restoration project. Forest restoration thinning should address dense, single species-dominated, even-aged managed stands that are over-stocked and lacking in species and habitat diversity. There is certainly no shortage of these stands on the Forest. This project includes many areas (close to half the acreage) of older, naturally regenerated, fire-originated stands. As the EA confirms, these stands contain larger trees, snags and a greater diversity of species, age, and habitat structure. "The project wildlife biologist also expressed that these stands provide greater structural and habitat diversity including foraging habitat for spotted owls." These stands are evolving at their own pace toward more structurally diverse, late successional and eventually old-growth forests. They do not need active management; the risks to natural resources are clearly too high. Protecting legacy structures through skips and no equipment zones is inadequate.