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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I would like to submit my disagreement with the proposal for harvesting trees under the Bear Palmer Forest Health Project #68985.

I spend just about every day of the year looking at these areas. The joy I receive by looking at this wildness is priceless. I know I am not alone in loving the view we share. Having driven through other communities with harvested land, I know what could happen to our view and am saddened by the prospect.

I have lived here for 35 years and the main reason I stay is due to the environment that surrounds us. I recreate (hiking, jogging, skiing) throughout our ecosystem; however, I find myself spending most of my recreation hours in land nearby (Eagle Creek, Bear Creek, and Travertine Road). I choose these areas, not only for their convenience, but for the enjoyment of the forest, including it's wildness, teeming with the wildlife that brings a smile to my face as well as a racing heart when I realize a large animal is nearby. The forest also provides the shade that I need on a hot day as well as keeping the ski trail in good condition during the ski season.

I see a lot of others enjoying the proposed areas for recreation - from all over the country. I suspect the consistent money they bring into our economy far outweighs the money the company that would harvest would put into our economy. I foresee the harvest company(ies) taking the trees and money away and leaving nothing worthwhile behind including unreclaimed roads, terrible view-sheds, and displaced wildlife and recreators. Also, established roadways would degrade during the project. Our county works hard to keep up with current use - I doubt the county could keep up with additional use.

Our community also harvests trees for Christmas trees in the winter and cleans up downed trees near the roadways harvesting firewood for heating homes. These forests are important, culturally, for our community. I'm disappointed in our Forest Service as they are fast-tracking this process as well as changing previously non-commercial designations to commercial - seems very underhanded.

I don't see how the harvesting would help the structures of Jardine from wildfires - the locations and sizes don't make sense to me for this purpose. A healthy forest needs to be able to grow into a dense forest while growing thick fire-resistant bark on fir and spruce. Forests contain critical irreplaceable old-growth trees that provide critical carbon sinks and regulate harmful global heating.

Please do not approve this project. Our community is better off without it.