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First name: Keith

Last name: Bailey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Acting Forest Supervisor,

I am submitting comments in opposition to the North Trinity County Community Risk Reduction Project. This project proposes commercial logging across thousands of acres of Northern Spotted Owl Critical Habitat, Late Successional Reserves, and includes more than 2,000 acres of logging in Riparian Reserves, in one of the most ecologically significant landscapes in the National Forest System.

I am a passionate hiker, birder, and fisherman and have recreated as such in the Trinity along the Trinity River and the forest around Trinity Lake in the past few months. I care that these types of forest management project are done properly. I have worked for the forest service as a wildland firefighter and know firsthand the damage heavy machinery can do to riparian and other delicate habitats in very little time.

What this project describes, at this scale, leaves a forest permanently altered in character and ecological function. Reducing canopy cover, removing large trees over 20 inches, with miles of temporary roads, skid trails, and likely hundreds of clear-cut log landings not a community risk reduction prescription. What would remain is a disturbance footprint that is vast, long-lasting, and wholly inconsistent with forest resiliency by any scientific measure, as seen on Rainier Road.

I urge you to revise the EA around a prescription that is targeted, enforceable, and grounded in science. Protecting communities and protecting wildlife are not mutually exclusive. Treating small-diameter vegetation, limiting harvest to trees under 20 inches, using the existing road system, and maintaining 60 to 80 percent canopy cover would reduce fire risk without dismantling the forest that wildlife depends on.

Sincerely,
Keith Bailey