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First name: Jacob

Last name: Bear

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Acting Forest Supervisor,

I am submitting comments in opposition to the North Trinity County Community Risk Reduction Project.

Years ago, I moved to northern California because I fell in love with old growth forests. It pains me to see tax dollars wasted on misguided timber harvests that should be precluded by the USFS's own data.

This project will increase the risk of fire to local communities by opening up the forest canopy. As seen in many similar past projects, such as the Peak Fire timber sales, the effects will be the opposite of "risk reduction": Increased temperatures, reduced moisture, and higher winds.

It will also cause irreparable ecological damage to critical habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl.

Given that the low-elevation forests between Trinity Lake and the Trinity Alps Wilderness support over 30 documented NSO territories, this is one of the LAST places any heavy logging operations should be done.

The mitigation measures in place for this project are pointless and ineffective, if not deliberately deceptive. There is no oversight to monitor and enforce the 30-inch diameter limit. Even if there were, this still leaves more than 80% of the trees open for removal, not to mention the impact of landings, skid trails, and "temporary" roads which are likely to impact the landscape for decades.

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,

Jacob Bear