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First name: Sarah

Last name: Jordan

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 habitat, in one of the most ecologically significant landscapes in the National Forest System.

These watersheds support over 30 documented Northern Spotted Owl territories. The low-elevation forests between Trinity Lake and the Trinity Alps Wilderness represent the last functional stronghold for this endangered species. They provide refuge in the sea of flammable clearcuts surrounding and intertwined with the project area.

What this project describes, at this scale, leaves a forest permanently altered in character and ecological function. Opening up the forest dries out the soil, ruins the understory, creates ugly roads, and actually increases the fire risk.

I urge you to change your forest plan to one 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,

Sarah Jordan