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Organization:

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Comments: I oppose the Dead Mountain project as proposed. As a member of the public, I have a stake in how federally managed forests are treated. Public lands belong to all of us, including people who may never personally walk every acre. Decisions about these forests should preserve ecological value and future options, not focus only on short-term outputs.

My primary concern is that the Forest Service has not adequately analyzed the cumulative effects of this project when combined with other planned timber activities on the Middle Fork Ranger District.

The agency's own Table 11 identifies multiple reasonably foreseeable timber projects, including Fall Creek, Station Butte, Youngs Rock Rigdon, Steeple Rock Rigdon, and Cedar Creek Fire hazard tree removal, that overlap with Dead Mountain in both timing and location. Several projects are expected to occur during the same 2026-2029 period, with a combined projected timber volume of 333 MMBF through 2035.

The Forest Service should provide a year-by-year cumulative harvest volume analysis for all overlapping projects and compare the total projected harvest against the District's stated sustainable annual output of approximately 32-40 MMBF per year. The current analysis does not allow the public to determine whether the combined level of timber removal remains within sustainable limits.

I request that the agency disclose the full cumulative impacts of these overlapping projects, including effects on mature Douglas-fir forest conditions, wildlife habitat, watershed values, carbon storage, recreation, and long-term forest resilience.

I also request that the Forest Service consider alternatives that reduce the overall scale of disturbance while still addressing legitimate wildfire concerns. Public forest management should protect ecological integrity and maintain choices for future generations.