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First name: Patricia

Last name: Wirsum

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My four-year-old daughter hikes this land with me, and I want her to see the majestic beauty of this land that God created. The Akawa Butte Fire Recovery project, as proposed by the Sisters Ranger District on the Deschutes, threatens what I want her to inherit. I oppose it for the following reasons and ask the agency to respond.

The proposed commercial salvage covers thousands of acres and involves mechanical tracked harvesters and ground-based logging. The project's own design criteria include the requirement to "Maintain mixed stand conditions in some portions of areas burned, including retaining a well-distributed diversity of patch sizes and burned conditions," as stated in TES-9. Yet nothing in this document shows how that standard will actually be met. There are no maps of which patches will be retained, no targets for structural diversity across the burn, and no monitoring requirements tied to patch retention. If the agency intends to comply with TES-9, it must provide a spatial analysis demonstrating how the proposed harvest pattern maintains the diversity of patch sizes and burned conditions that standard requires. I ask the agency to place that analysis on the record and explain specifically how harvest of trees up to 20 inches DBH across this footprint is consistent with it.

Beyond the design criteria question, I am concerned that no site-specific analysis of this landscape exists in this document. The project states, "It is estimated the project will authorize about 12 million board feet (MMBF) of timber or other wood product removal," yet the environmental review appears to rest on a national programmatic framework rather than any project-level examination of actual conditions here, including soils, hydrology, fire severity patterns, and species. What I want for my daughter is responsible management of this specific place. To me, responsible management starts with reseedling through air drops, not industrial harvest. The agency must prepare an analysis that addresses the real environmental consequences of this project on this particular landscape and explain why the approach chosen is preferable to less invasive recovery methods.