

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/18/2022 12:00:00 PM

First name: Grace

Last name: Brahler

Organization: Cascadia Wildlands

Title: Wildlands Director

Comments: Please accept the attached comment letter on behalf of 264 individuals in support of a conservative approach to post-fire roadside logging that focuses only those trees that truly pose a significant hazard and protects important forest habitat.

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Text of attached letter:

July 18, 2022

Duane Bishop, Acting Forest Supervisor

Willamette National Forest 3106 Pierce Parkway Suite D Springfield, OR 97477

VIA: <https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Public/CommentInput?Project=61749>

RE: 2020 Fire Affected Road System Risk Reduction EA

Dear Public Lands Steward:

I am writing to ask that you please limit post-fire roadside logging to only those trees that truly pose a significant hazard. I am thankful that you have significantly curtailed your original postfire roadside logging proposal, but concerns remain about the necessity to log along 250 miles of roads in the Willamette National Forest alone.

Instead of assuming you must cut, please consider retaining temporary road closures on low usage, remote roads while the forest recovers. The forest carbon stored in burned trees is much better left in the forest than released by logging and milling the trees, further contributing to the climate crisis. Burned forests provide essential habitat for many wildlife species. Creating disturbance through logging these forests introduces non-native invasive plant species and delays post-fire recovery. Sensitive post-fire soils are damaged by heavy logging equipment, making the impacts of wildfire much more severe for the forest and the species dependent on the habitats the forest provides.

Please ensure that it is public agency scientists making site-specific decisions on which [mdash] if any [mdash] trees truly pose a hazard, instead of delegating that authority to logging company workers who have a perverse incentive to deem trees dangerous and thus removable. Please also retain large "hazard" trees nearby for use in aquatic and riparian habitat restoration, instead of selling them for short term gain.

Additionally, I ask that you reopen the vast majority of the forest to public use. All other forests that burned in the 2020 Labor Day fires have reopened, and the delay in providing public access to the public forest you steward is hard to comprehend or justify.

Sincerely,

248 signatories (see attachment)