

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/31/2024 9:55:43 PM

First name: Deil

Last name: Auly

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

July 31, 2024

Dear Ranger Stonesifer and selected IDT members,

Incredibly, your July 1, 2024 Tyler's Kitchen Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project scoping document at page 3 says this proposed timber sale will restore "Resilient Vegetative Conditions."

Comment #37: Children learn to include page numbers in large documents they write. Your 16 page Tyler's Kitchen Fuels Reduction and Forest Health Project Scoping Information document contains no page numbers. Why?

Comment #38: You say "This area is steep and heavily roaded, stemming from a legacy of industrial timber harvest" and "within the project area, the Forest Service has acquired approximately 5,900 acres (18% of the project area) of former private timber industry lands over the past two decades."

Comment #39: Only a fool or someone clinically obsessed by the need to generate volume would believe commercial logging and roading would restore anything ...other than the purchaser's financial bottom line. Telling the public this untruth indicates you and most of the IDT members are not professionals. You are all trying to trick us. Some of the IDT members already know your "restore" claim is rubbish yet they remain silent. This makes most of the IDT members world-class hypocrites.

After reading the independent science quotes in the attachments authored by experts below, even children in junior high school would agree with and understand the truth.

Opposing Views Attachments #1

Opposing Views Attachments #4

You also say "Past management practices have resulted in the current vegetative characteristics, which contribute to decreased resilience to natural disturbance." The private timber industry lands were obviously logged over. What makes you think your new proposed logging of 9.5 square miles will not "contribute to decreased resilience to natural disturbance?" Are you not aware that your primary Purpose and Need is to "Restore Resilient Vegetative Conditions and Reduce Fuels." In order to accomplish your P&N a reasonable person would not log the area again.

It appears the IDT for the Tyler's Kitchen Fuels Reduction timber sale needs adult supervision.

It's sad that you do not know the USFS has had a timber agenda and culture since the 1950s. They have spent millions hiring private firms to develop ways to convince every USFS employee that logging and roading is the way to "restore" unhealthy forests and to keep healthy forests healthy. Some would call this USFS scheme mind manipulation. USFS employees who don't buy these USFS claims know they must fake it in order to stay eligible

for future promotions. If you do not make major changes in the design of the Tyler's Kitchen timber sale or drop it, I'm confident you will be invited to Federal District Court.

Comment Requirements

Project Name Tyler's Kitchen project

Responsible Official and Title Crystal Stonesifer, District Ranger

District & Forest where it will be implemented Missoula Ranger District, Lolo National Forest

The USFS is Destroying the NEPA

Process because too many IDT

Members are Writing Anything (true or not)

in Timber Sale Scoping Documents and Draft

NEPA documents to Assure the Responsible

Official Generates Maximum Volume.

When I read these documents it is obvious the so-called natural resource specialists who claim to be professionals have no land ethics or values. They are selling themselves for a chance to get promotion with more money and power.

Before I retired from the USFS I remember IDTs telling the Responsible Official "NO" if his/her request would harm the natural resources or recreational experience in or downstream from the sale area. They were honorable people who earned their salary. The American people would have been proud of them.

Now IDT members (like those working on the proposed Tyler's Kitchen timber sale) are pathetic "YES" people. They know the Responsible Official expects them to write whatever is needed to justify logging and roading a splendid undeveloped section of national forest where the resources were healthy and functioned symbiotically and properly. Among other things their effects disclosures I Chapter 3 describe tragic effects of selecting No Action and beneficial effects of selecting the Proposed Action that were laughable. They were obedient.

My Daughter and her Family do not Appreciate
your Unprofessional Behavior

My daughter and her family live in Wye. They enjoy the Lolo National Forest very much.

They feel that developing this area will ruin their fishing, wildlife viewing, camping and hiking opportunities. They own the Lolo National Forest. Since I am retired from the USFS my daughter called me and asked if there was anything she could do to convince you to leave the area undeveloped.

She wanted to know what she must do to gain standing to take court action. I told her she needs to comment on this project to gain standing to submit an objection and that when the Objection Deciding Officer's response to her objection is unacceptable she would have standing to take court action. I told her she must show the court she will be harmed by the decision. Ranger Stonesifer people like you must be held accountable. Clearly you are serving your corporate masters and backhanding the public. This is easy to change if you want to.

I hope the IDT members will make whatever changes to the sale design that are needed to maintain the proper functioning of the natural resources in and downstream from the sale area. A few IDT resource specialists understand the following facts that they do not talk about because they know the Responsible Official desperately wants volume. Most IDT resource specialists are so mentally ill with confirmation bias that they know the truths listed below are not true before they read them. It's sad that thousands of USFS employees make large salaries as they collectively try to trick the public into believing commercial natural resource extraction is a good thing. I look forward to the day when Congress eliminates the USFS and creates the Dept. of Environmental

Stewardship to replace it.

- *Logging and roading slows the natural recovery of forests and of streams and creatures within them

- *Logging and roading impacts result in increases in sediment, streamflow, and water temperature

- *Sediment from logging and roading clogs the gills of fish, increases fines in spawning beds, impedes water flow and hampers oxygenation of incubating salmon eggs.

- *Logging and roading causes a loss of bio-diversity

- *Logging and roading causes T&E species in the forest to move closer to extinction.

- *Logging and roading causes ecosystem fragmentation

- *Logging and roading cause erosion

- *Logging and roading obstructs streams and rivers

- *Logging is changing the climate because live trees store carbon.

- *Logging and roading causes increased habitat edge which causes increased wildlife vulnerability to predation, poaching, and invasion of non-native plants.

- *Skidding can cause root damage, allowing entry of rot-causing microorganisms. Repeated passes of heavy equipment over certain types of soils, especially during wet conditions, can compact soil air spaces and impede root growth.

- *Logging causes detrimental soil disturbance associated with ground-based extraction including compaction, rutting, lateral soil displacement, topsoil mixing and the formation of puddles.

- *Logging causes noise and dust that destroys the experience for hikers and campers.

- *Logged areas have little beneficial effect on wildfire spread and can actually aggravate fire growth in some cases.

- *Some USFS commercial fuels logging treatments may actually result in an increased rate of spread under many conditions. See:

Opposing views Attachment #3

- *Logging and roading destroys wildlife habitat.

Unfortunately, most USFS employees Suffer from the Mental Illness called "confirmation bias."

There is no amount of science that would convince people with confirmation bias to examine logging and roading impacts with an open mind ... if the science described errors in their beliefs. Here, become familiar with "confirmation bias."

"Confirmation bias is a psychological term for the human tendency to only seek out information that supports one position or idea. This causes you to have a bias towards your original position because if you only seek out

information that supports one idea, you will only find information that supports that idea."

Read about The Psychology of Confirmation Bias here:

<https://psychcentral.com/blog/the-psychology-of-confirmation-bias>

<https://www.tranceformpsychology.com/mental-health-psychology/confirmation-bias.html>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/science-of-choice/201504/what-is-confirmation-bias>

<https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/confirmation-bias-mindshelp-gk2ze>

Ranger Stonesifer, please provide a meaningful response to each of my comments below in the Response to Comments section in the pending final NEPA document. Garbage like "thank you for the comment" is unacceptable. The judge will know this. I will remind you again of 40 CFR § 1503.4.

After my daughter's objection is rejected by the Deputy Regional Forester, she will invite you to Federal District Court.

I hope the IDT members understand the experts quoted below are describing how commercial timber sales (like Tylers Kitchen) will inflict massive damage to the resources in and downstream from the sale area. This will not be "short term" damage the USFS so often uses to justify such abuse. Indeed, logging and roading restore nothing!!!!

What do they do to get USFS professionals to really believe such nonsense?

Quote below is from Logging without Limits isn't a Solution to Wildfires

By Timothy Ingalsbee Ph.D.

Published in the Portland Oregonian, August 6, 2002

<http://www.klamathforestalliance.org/Documents/loggingwithoutlimits.html>

Quote:

"Since the 'New Perspectives' program of the early 1990s, the agency has tried to dodge public opposition to commercial logging by using various euphemisms, such as this gem from the Siskiyou National Forest: Clearcuts are called 'minimum green tree retention units.' Accordingly, Forest Service managers have believed that if they simply refer to logging as 'thinning,' or add the phrases 'fuels reduction' or 'forest restoration' to the title of their timber sale plans, then the public will accept these projects at face value, and business-as-usual commercial logging can proceed. In the face of multiple scandals and widespread public skepticism of the Forest Service's credibility, it seems that only Congress is buying the agency's labeling scheme."

Comment #1: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Ingalsbee is an expert in his field with much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. Why would he say "the agency has tried to dodge public opposition to commercial logging by using various euphemisms" if it were not true.

Quote below is from Getting it Right: Environmentalism for the 21st Century

By Patrick Moore Ph.D.

Published online by Berkely Rausser, College of Natural Resources, October 01, 1999

<https://nature.berkeley.edu/events/2017/06/getting-it-right-environmentalism-21st-century>

Quote:

"This gives rise to the obvious concern that if the trees are cut down the habitats or homes will be lost and the species that live in them will die. Indeed, in 1996 the World Wildlife Fund, at a media conference in Geneva, announced that 50,000 species are going extinct each year due to human activity. And the main cause of these 50,000 extinctions, they said, is commercial logging. The story was carried around the world by Associated Press and other media and hundreds of millions of people came to believe that forestry is the main cause of species extinction."

Comment #2: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Moore is an expert in his field with much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. His believes "50,000 species are going extinct each year due to human activity. And the main cause of these 50,000 extinctions is commercial logging?" It's time to face-up to reality. What makes you believe an agency that routinely sells commercial logging contracts would care about T&E species enough to take action to restore them.

Quote below is from Are Wildfire Mitigation and Restoration of Historic Forest Structure Compatible? A Spatial Modeling Assessment

By Rutherford V. Platt Ph.D., Thomas T. Veblen Ph.D., and Rosemary L. Sherriff

Published Online: by the by Association of American Geographers. Sep. 8, 2006

<http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/routledg/anna/2006/00000096/00000003/art00001>

Quote:

Is Fuels Reduction Logging Effective? - "We question the validity of thinning as a means both to reduce the threat of wildfire and to restore historic forest structure in the absence of site-specific data collection on past and present landscape conditions."

Comment #3: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Platt, Dr. Veblen and Ms. Sherriff are experts in forest ecology with much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. They question "the validity of thinning as a means both to reduce the threat of wildfire and to restore historic forest structure in the absence of site-specific data collection on past and present landscape conditions?" What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below is from Fanning the Flames! The U.S. Forest Service: A Fire-Dependent Bureaucracy

By Timothy Ingalsbee Ph.D.

Published in the Missoula Independent. Vol. 14 No. 24, June 2003

<http://www.klamathforestalliance.org/Documents/fanningtheflames.html>

Quote:

"In the face of growing public scrutiny and criticism of the agency's logging policies and practices, the Forest Service and their enablers in Congress have learned to mask timber sales as so-called 'fuels reduction' and 'forest restoration' projects. Yet, the net effect of these logging projects is to actually increase fire risks and fuel hazards."

"Decades of encouraging private logging companies to take the biggest, oldest, most fire-resistant trees from public lands, while leaving behind a volatile fuel load of small trees, brush, weeds, stumps and slash has vastly increased the flammability of forestlands."

"In addition to post-fire salvage logging, the Forest Service and timber industry advocates in Congress have been pushing pre-fire timber sales, often falsely billed as hazardous fuels reduction or 'thinning' projects, to lower the risk or hazard of future wildfires. In too many cases, these so-called thinning projects are logging thick-diameter

fire-resistant overstory trees instead of or in addition to cutting thin-sized fire-susceptible understory trees. The resulting logging slash and the increased solar and wind exposure can paradoxically increase the fuel hazards and fire risks."

Comment #4: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Ingalsbee is the Co-founder and Executive Director of Firefighters United for Safety, Ethics and Ecology and is a faculty research associate at the University of Oregon. He has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He says "logging projects actually increase fire risks and fuel hazards." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below is from Soil and Root Damage in Forestry, 200 pages
By Iwan Wasterlund, Ph.D.
Published by Elsevier, 26 August 2020
<https://www.readonbooks.net/pdf/soil-and-root-damage-in-forestry/>

Quote:

"Agroforestry has significantly impacted our forests, but an often-overlooked issue is the effect of harvesting on soils and root systems. Soil and Root Damage in Forestry explains how soil and roots might be damaged through logging activities or silvicultural activities, how resulting root diseases impact the root and soil systems, and the impacts of chemical applications on the soil and root system. This book goes beyond the 'why' to also provide methods to reduce the impacts of machines on soils and offers solutions to minimize the impacts of machines on soils. Soil and Root Damage in Forestry serves as a valuable resource not only for those already working in soil science and forest ecology, but also provides insights for advanced students seeking an entrance to the "hidden half" of the planet. Combines damages to soil and roots in one volume for the first time Includes calculations related to soil strength providing soil scientists and ecologists with methods to estimate root damage Provides suggestions on how to reduce the impact of harvesting on soil and root systems."

Comment #5: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Wasterlund is an expert in forest ecology and has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He says "soil and roots might be damaged through logging activities or silvicultural activities." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below is from How and How Much, Do Harvesting Activities Affect Forest Soil, Regeneration and Stands?
By Rodolfo Picchio Ph.D., Piotr S. Mederski Ph.D. and Farzam Tavankar Ph.D.
Published in Current Forestry Reports volume 6, pages 115-128 (2020)
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s40725-020-00113-8>

Quote:

"There are a large number of publications tackling forest harvesting, but most of them do not give a comprehensive framework and they mainly focus on one or very few aspects of forest damage. In order to improve general knowledge of the impact of forest operations, it was proposed that the scope of recent findings should be examined and a compilation of the available results from different regions should be presented in one paper."

"The physical, chemical and biological properties of the forest soil change as a result of harvesting operations, and this is commonly referred to as soil disturbance.
Detrimental soil disturbance associated with ground-based extraction often includes compaction, rutting, lateral

soil displacement, topsoil mixing and the formation of puddles."

Comment #6: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Picchio. Dr. Mederski and Dr. Tavankar are experts and have much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. Their research reveals "ground-based extraction often includes compaction, rutting, lateral soil displacement, topsoil mixing and the formation of puddles?" What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below from Excerpt from a letter to Chief Dale Bosworth and 5 members of congress, 2002
By Emily B. Roberson Ph.D., Senior Policy Analyst, California Native Plant Society
https://www.biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/protecting_native_plants/pdfs/Fire-letter-CNPS-8-02.pdf

Quote:

"It is well established that logging and roadbuilding often increase both fuel loading and fire risk. For example, the Sierra Nevada Ecosystem Project (SNEP) Science Team (1996) concluded that "timber harvest.... has increased fire severity more than any other recent human activity" in the Sierra Nevada. Timber harvest may increase fire hazard by drying of microclimate associated with canopy opening and with roads, by increases in fuel loading by generation of activity fuels, by increases in ignition sources associated with machinery and roads, by changes in species composition due to opening of stands, by the spread of highly flammable non native weeds, insects and disease, and by decreases in forest health associated with damage to soil and residual trees (DellaSala and Frost, 2001; Graham et al., 2001; Weatherspoon et al., 1992; SNEP Science Team, 1996). Indeed a recent literature review reported that some studies have found a positive correlation between the occurrence of past logging and present fire hazard in some forest types in the Interior Columbia Basin (DellaSala and Frost, 2001)."

Comment #7: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Robertson has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He is sure "timber harvest.... has increased fire severity more than any other recent human activity?" What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below from Logging in disguise: How forest thinning is making wildfires worse
By Chad Hanson, Ph.D.
Published by Grist Magazine, Aug 24, 2021
<https://grist.org/fix/forest-thinning-logging-makes-wildfires-worse/>

Quotes:

"The U.S. Forest Service clears trees from public lands in the name of fire prevention, but it doesn't work. There are better strategies to protect communities, but don't expect to hear about them from the logging industry."

"Fire has always been a concern for communities like Greenville in the northern Sierra Nevada mountains. And, for decades, the USFS and the timber industry told the townspeople that logging tens of thousands of acres - under the guise of "thinning" - would create "fuel breaks" to slow or even stop wildfires and prevent flames from reaching Main Street."

"Forest thinning is gaining more media attention and is heavily promoted by some land management agencies and logging interests, but science suggests the technique more often makes fires burn hotter and faster."

Comment #8: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Hanson has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He does not care if your commercial timber sale sells or not. Yet he is sure "forest thinning

makes fires burn hotter and faster."

What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below from Logging in disguise: How forest thinning is making wildfires worse

By Chad Hanson Ph.D.

Published by Grist, Aug 24, 2021

Quote:

"The U.S. Forest Service clears trees from public lands in the name of fire prevention, but it doesn't work. There are better strategies to protect communities, but don't expect to hear about them from the logging industry."

Comment #9: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Hanson has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He does not care if your commercial timber sale sells or not. Yet he is sure "clearing trees to prevent fire doesn't work?" What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below from Dead trees aren't a wildfire threat, but overlogging them will ruin our forest ecosystems

By Chad Hanson, Ph.D., research ecologist

Published in the LA Times, June 27, 2016

<http://www.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-hanson-dead-trees-fires-vilsack-20160627-snap-story.html>

Quote:

"Trees larger than just a few inches in diameter are not consumed in fires - only the outer bark layer and the needles actually burn up - so the great majority of the dead trees in the forest do not significantly influence fire behavior, even if they are dry. Besides, once trees die, the combustible oils in the needles quickly begin to dissipate and the needles fall, making it more - not less - difficult for flames to spread through the forest canopy."

"Secretary Vilsack is well aware of this research, but it does not fit with his political and economic objectives. On June 22, he argued that large-scale "tree die-offs" put "property and lives at risk," and urged Congress to act. Specifically, he recommended passage of a bill backed by the timber industry that would fund a large expansion of the federal wildland fire suppression program, and increase commercial logging on federal public lands - all in the name of removing supposedly dangerous dead trees."

Comment #10: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Hanson has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He does not care if your commercial timber sale sells or not. Yet he is sure "the great majority of the dead trees in the forest do not significantly influence fire behavior." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why? You have no business working for 342 million Americans.

Quote below from Using wildfires as an excuse to plunder forests

By Chad Hanson, Ph.D.

Published by Idaho State Journal, September 16, 2018

https://www.idahostatejournal.com/opinion/columns/using-wildfires-as-an-excuse-to-plunder-forests/article_6d34ccb1-8c5e-58be-8cb7-88b7fd67d0cd.html

Quote:

"The danger from wildfires is real, but cutting down more trees is not the solution. By far the most effective way to prevent damage is to focus on basic fire-safety measures for at-risk houses.

These include installing fire-resistant roofing, ember-proof exterior vents and guards to prevent wind-borne embers from igniting dry leaves and pine needles in rain gutters and creating "defensible space" by reducing combustible grasses, shrubs and small trees within 100 feet of homes. Research shows these steps can have a major impact on whether houses survive wildfires."

"On the contrary, increased logging can make fires burn more intensely. Logging, including many projects deceptively promoted as forest "thinning," removes fire-resistant trees, reduces the cooling shade of the forest canopy and leaves behind highly combustible twigs and branches."

Comment #11: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Hanson has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members. He does not care if your commercial timber sale sells or not. Yet he knows "increased logging can make fires burn more intensely." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below is from A Report to the President in Response to the Wildfires of 2000.

By Lyle Lavery USDA Forest Service and Tim Hartzell U.S. Department of the Interior, September 8, 2000

<https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/migrated/pmb/owf/upload/2000-Report-to-the-President.pdf>

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quote:

"Most of the trees that should be removed to reduce accumulated fuels are small in diameter and have little or no commercial value."

"Mechanically removing fuels (through commercial timber harvesting and other means) can also have adverse effects on wildlife habitat and water quality in many areas. Officials told GAO that, because of these effects, a large-scale expansion of commercial timber harvesting alone for removing materials would not be feasible. However, because the Forest Service relies on the timber program for funding many of its activities (including reducing fuels) it has often used this program to address the wildfire problem. The difficulty with such an approach, however, is that the lands with commercially valuable timber are often not those with the greatest wildfire hazards."

Comment #12: Ranger Stonesifer, USDA Forest Service employee Lyle Lavery says "Mechanically removing fuels (through commercial timber harvesting and other means) can also have adverse effects on water quality in many areas."

What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below is from Salvage Logging and its Ecological Consequences (246 pages)

By professor David B. Lindenmayer Ph.D., professor Phillip J. Burton Ph.D., and Professor Jerry Franklin Ph.D.

Published by Island Press, July 2012

<https://islandpress.org/books/salvag%20Consequencese-logging-and-its-ecological-consequences>

Quote:

"Salvage logging-removing trees from a forested area in the wake of a catastrophic event such as a wildfire or

hurricane-is highly controversial. Policymakers and those with an economic interest in harvesting trees typically argue that damaged areas should be logged so as to avoid "wasting" resources, while many forest ecologists contend that removing trees following a disturbance is harmful to a variety of forest species and can interfere with the natural process of ecosystem recovery."

Comment #13: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Jerry Franklin says "removing trees following a disturbance is harmful to a variety of forest species and can interfere with the natural process of ecosystem recovery." This especially applies to post-fire timber sales. What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Are all your beliefs and decisions based on things science shows is untrue? Why?

Quote below is from: Diversion Potential at Road-Stream Crossings
By professor Furniss, Michael J. Ph.D. Michael Love Ph.D. and Sam A. Flanagan Ph.D
USDA Forest Service. 9777 1814-SDTDC. December 1997
https://www.fs.usda.gov/t-d/pubs/html/wr_p/97771814/97771814.htm#:~:text=regardless%20of%20capacity.-

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quotes:

"Rarely can roads be designed and built that have no negative impacts on streams. Roads modify natural drainage patterns and can increase hillslope erosion and downstream sedimentation. Sediments from road failures at stream crossings are deposited directly into stream habitats and can have both on-site and off-site effects. These include alterations of the channel pattern or morphology, increased bank erosion and changes in channel width, substrate composition, and stability of slopes adjacent to the channels."

"All of these changes result in important biological consequences that can affect the entire stream ecosystem. One specific example involves anadromous salmonids, such as salmon and steelhead, that have complex life histories and require suitable stream habitat to support both juvenile and adult life stages."

"A healthy fishery requires access to suitable habitat that provides food, shelter, spawning gravel, suitable water quality, and access for upstream and downstream migration. Road-stream crossing failures have direct impacts on all of these components."

Comment #14: Ranger Stonesifer, professor Furniss, Dr. Love and Dr. Flanagan (all forest ecologists) research conclusions all reveal "Rarely can roads be designed and built that have no negative impacts on streams. Roads modify natural drainage patterns and can increase hillslope erosion and downstream sedimentation." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Who are you? Is your goal to trash every national forest you work on?

Quote below is from: Minimizing the impacts of the forest road system."
By Johnny M. Grace III Ph.D. 2003 Research Engineer Forest Operations Research, Southern Research Station
USDA Forest Service
In: Proceedings of the conference 34 international erosion control association; ISSN 1092-2806 2003
International Erosion Control Association: 301-310.
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_grace011.pdf

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quote:

"Roads and skid trails have been identified as a major contributor to increased turbidity of water draining logging areas resulting in increases from 4 to 93 parts per million (Hoover, 1952). Forest roads have been found to have erosion rates from one to three orders of magnitude greater than similar undisturbed areas (Megahan, 1974) and perhaps account for as much as 90 percent of all forest erosion (Megahan, 1972). Forest roads can also cause soil erosion and stream sedimentation, which adversely impact on the nation's water quality (Authur et al., 1998).

Comment #15: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Grace's research conclusions reveal " Forest roads have been found to have erosion rates from one to three orders of magnitude greater than similar undisturbed areas." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Who are you? Is your goal to trash every national forest you work on?

Quote below is from: "Road Development, Housing Growth, and Landscape Fragmentation In Northern Wisconsin: 1937-1999"

By Hawbaker, Todd J. Ph.D., Volker C. Radeloff Ph.D., Murray K. Clayton Ph.D., Roger B. Hammer Ph.D., and Charlotte E. Gonzalez-Abraham Ph.D.

Published in Ecological Applications: Vol. 16, No. 3, pp. 1222-1237.

[https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1890/1051-](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1890/1051-0761%282006%29016%5B1222%3ARDHGAL%5D2.0.CO%3B2)

[0761%282006%29016%5B1222%3ARDHGAL%5D2.0.CO%3B2](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1890/1051-0761%282006%29016%5B1222%3ARDHGAL%5D2.0.CO%3B2)" \l "accessDenialLayout

Quote:

"Roads remove habitat, alter adjacent areas, and interrupt and redirect ecological flows. They subdivide wildlife populations, foster invasive species spread, change the hydrologic network, and increase human use of adjacent areas." (abstract)

Comment #16: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Hawbaker, Dr. Radeloff Dr. Clayton, Dr. Hammer, and Dr. Gonzalez-Abraham's research conclusions reveal "Roads remove habitat, alter adjacent areas, and interrupt and redirect ecological flows. They subdivide wildlife populations, foster invasive species spread, change the hydrologic network, and increase human use of adjacent areas Forest roads have been found to have erosion rates from one to three orders of magnitude greater than similar undisturbed areas." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions?

Quote below is from: Restoring Forest Roads

By Kimberly Lowe Ph.D.

A Northern Arizona University Ecological Restoration Institute publication

Working Paper 12. June, 2005.

http://openknowledge.nau.edu/id/eprint/1305/7/Lowe_2005_ERIWorkingPaper12_RestoringForestRoads.pdf

Quote:

"Physical disturbances caused by road construction and vehicle use create ideal conditions for colonization by invasive exotic plant species. The use of roads by vehicles, machinery, or humans often aids the spread of exotic plant seeds. Once established, they can have long-term impacts on surrounding ecosystems and can be difficult to remove."

"Roads are known to cause habitat fragmentation. Many create ecological 'edges' with different plant species, light levels, and hiding cover, all of which may alter animal survival, reproductive success, and movement patterns. The introduction of exotic plants can disrupt the availability of native vegetation used by wildlife for food and shelter (Trombulak and Frissell 1999)."

"Forest roads often develop a water-repellent soil layer caused by lack of vegetative cover and changes in soil composition. This can substantially influence how runoff is processed. Erosion, the formation of water channels beside the road, and increased sediment loads in nearby streams are common results of this process (Baker 2003)."

"Because they provide easier access to many forest tracts, forest roads often allow more human-caused fires to be ignited."

Comment #17: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Lowe knows "Because forest roads provide easier access to many forest tracts, forest roads often allow more human-caused fires to be ignited." She has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members" What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions?

Quote below is from: Hydrological processes and pathways affected by forest roads: what do we still need to learn?

By Luce, Charles H. Ph.D., USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station

Hydrologic Processes: 16, 2901-2904, September 27, 2002

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/teams/soils/Publications/Luce%202002%20HP.pdf>

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quotes:

"Almost everywhere people live and work they build and use unimproved roads, and wherever the roads go, a range of environmental issues follows."

"Among the environmental effects of unimproved roads, those on water quality and aquatic ecology are some of the most critical. Increased chronic sedimentation, in particular, can dramatically change the food web in affected streams and lakes."

"The nearly impervious nature of road surfaces (or treads) makes them unique within forested environments and causes runoff generation even in mild rainfall events, leading to chronic fine sediment contributions."

"If we look at the issue of what we need to learn or the research priorities for forest road hydrology, I would argue that the areas of cutslope hydrology and effectiveness of restoration efforts are perhaps most critical."

"At a few sites in the mountains of Idaho and Oregon a substantial portion of the road runoff (80-95%) came from subsurface flow intercepted by the cutslope (Burroughs et al., 1972; Megahan, 1972; Wemple, 1998)."

Comment #18: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Luce (a USFS scientist) knows "roads are cited as the dominant source of sediment that reaches stream channels. He has much more experience and education than you or any of your IDT members" What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions?

Quote below is from: Sediment Plume Development from Forest Roads: How are they related to Filter Strip Recommendations?

By J. McFero Grace III, Research Engineer, US Forest Service, G.W. Andrews Forestry Sciences Lab

An ASAE/CSAE Meeting Presentation, Paper Number: 045015, August 1-4, 2004.

http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_grace017.pdf

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quote:

"Research has shown that roads can have adverse impacts on the water quality on the forest landscape (Authur et al. 1998; Binkley and Brown 1993; Megahan et al. 1991). The forest road system has been identified by previous research as the major source of soil erosion on forestlands (Anderson et. al 1976; Patric 1976; Swift 1984; Van Lear et al. 1997). Furthermore, roads are cited as the dominant source of sediment that reaches stream channels (Packer 1967; Trimble and Sartz 1957; Haupt 1959)."

Comment #19: Ranger Stonesifer, Mr. Grace (a USFS research engineer) knows forest roads. He would not stick his neck out and say "roads are cited as the dominant source of sediment that reaches stream channels" if it were not true? Who do you think you are? What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions?

Quote below is from: Predicting Road Surface Erosion from Forest Roads in Washington State

By Walter F. Megahan, Ph.D.

from a presentation presented at the 2003 Geological Society of America meeting.

http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2003AM/finalprogram/abstract_67686.htm

Quote:

"Erosion from forest roads can be a large source of sediment in watersheds managed for timber production."

Comment #20: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Megahan's research reveals "Erosion from forest roads can be a large source of sediment in watersheds managed for timber production."

What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Why do you knowingly ignore best science. Top leaders in your agency tell the public "Forest Service managers strive to use the best science available in their decision making."

See Opposing Views Attachment #10.

I have seen (and worked with) USFS employees who would claim anything to increase volume as you are doing here.

Quote below is from: Statements at a Press Conference with Senator Robert Torricelli, April 28, 1998

By David Montgomery Ph.D., about S. 977 and HR 1376), the Act to Save America's Forests

Dr. Montgomery is an Associate Professor for the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Washington.

<http://www.saveamericasforests.org/news/ScientistsStatement.htm>

Quote:

"Today, addressing the adverse impacts of forest roads is consistently identified as one of the highest watershed restoration priorities in U.S. forests-in many forested watersheds in the western United States there is a greater road density than stream density. It is simply irrational to spend millions of dollars subsidizing further forest road construction when we are simultaneously spending millions of dollars to offset detrimental effects associated with similar actions in the past."

Comment #21: Ranger Stonesifer, professor Montgomery teaches "It is simply irrational to spend millions of dollars subsidizing further forest road construction when we are simultaneously spending millions of dollars to

offset detrimental effects associated with similar actions in the past."

Can you understand what he is saying? What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions XXXXX? Why do you knowingly ignore best science? Are you proud?

Quote below is from: Statements at a Press Conference with Senator Robert Torricelli, April 28, 1998
By Seth Reice Ph.D., about S. 977 and HR 1376), the Act to Save America's Forests
Dr. Reice is Associate Professor of Biology in the Department of Biology and Curriculum in Ecology, University of North Carolina
<http://www.saveamericasforests.org/news/ScientistsStatement.htm>

quote:

"Clearcutting, along with the vast network of logging roads, result in sedimentation and soil erosion into our national forest's rivers and streams. Sedimentation degrades the water quality, impairs the habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates, and limits the ecosystem functions and services of streams.

The Act to Save America's forests bans clearcutting, restores damaged areas by allowing regeneration of native species, and reduces road building by prohibiting further road construction in core areas of biodiversity. These are necessary steps, to prevent further erosion and will help rehabilitate our forests our streams, and protect our wildlife.

Comment #22: Ranger Stonesifer, professor Reice teaches "banning clearcutting will prevent further erosion and will help rehabilitate our forests our streams, and protect our wildlife." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with many square miles of clearcutting and large created openings) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions? Here is what you will create Photos Attachment #15.

Quote below is from: Review of Ecological Effects of Roads on Terrestrial and Aquatic Communities
By Christopher Frissell Ph.D and Stephen Trombulak Ph.D
Published by Conservation Biology, December 24, 2001
<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1046/j.1523-1739.2000.99084>

Quote:

"We reviewed the scientific literature on the ecological effects of roads and found support for the general conclusion that they are associated with negative effects on biotic integrity in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems."

"Not all species and ecosystems are equally affected by roads, but overall the presence of roads is highly correlated with changes in species composition, population sizes, and hydrologic and geomorphic processes that shape aquatic and riparian systems."

Comment #23: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Frissell and Dr. Trombulak know "roads are associated with negative effects on biotic integrity in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE Resilient Vegetative Conditions?

Do you get it yet???

Quote below is from: Sediment Production from Forest Road Surfaces
By Reid, L. M. Ph.D. and T. Dunne

Quote:

"Erosion on roads is an important source of fine-grained sediment in streams draining logged basins of the Pacific Northwest. Runoff rates and sediment concentrations from 10 road segments subject to a variety of traffic levels were monitored to produce sediment rating curves and unit hydrographs for different use levels and types of surfaces. These relationships are combined with a continuous rainfall record to calculate mean annual sediment yields from road segments of each use level. A heavily used road segment in the field area contributes 130 times as much sediment as an abandoned road. A paved road segment, along which cut slopes and ditches are the only sources of sediment, yields less than 1% as much sediment as a heavily used road with a gravel surface."

Comment #24: Ranger Stonesifer, Dr. Reid's research shows "A heavily used road segment contributes 130 times as much sediment as an abandoned road." What makes you believe your proposed commercial timber sale (with 11 miles of new road planned) will RESTORE anything?

Quote below is from: Sediment Plume Development from Forest Roads: How are they related to Filter Strip Recommendations?

By J. McFero Grace III, Research Engineer, US Forest Service, G.W. Andrews Forestry Sciences Lab
An ASAE/CSAE Meeting Presentation, Paper Number: 045015, August 1-4, 2004.
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_grace017.pdf

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quote:

"Research has shown that roads can have adverse impacts on the water quality on the forest landscape (Author et al. 1998; Binkley and Brown 1993; Megahan et al. 1991). The forest road system has been identified by previous research as the major source of soil erosion on forestlands (Anderson et. al 1976; Patric 1976; Swift 1984; Van Lear et al. 1997). Furthermore, roads are cited as the dominant source of sediment that reaches stream channels (Packer 1967; Trimble and Sartz 1957; Haupt 1959)."

Comment #25: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Mr. Grace say roads are cited as the dominant source of sediment that reaches stream channels

Quote below is from: Cumulative effects of roads and logging on landscape structure in the San Juan Mountains, Colorado (USA)

By Kevin McGarigal Ph.D., William H. Romme Ph.D., Michele Crist Ph.D. and Ed Roworth Ph.D.
Published in Landscape Ecology, Volume 16, Number 4 / May, 2001
<https://www.umass.edu/landeco/pubs/mcgarigal.et.al.2001.pdf>

Quote:

"Overall, roads had a greater impact on landscape structure than logging in our study area. Indeed, the 3-fold increase in road density between 1950-1993 accounted for most of the changes in landscape configuration associated with mean patch size, edge density, and core area."

Comment #26: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative

Conditions why would Dr. McGarigal, Dr. Romme, Dr. Crist and Dr. Roworth say "roads had a greater impact on landscape structure than logging

Quote below is from: Forest Roads: A Synthesis of Scientific Information
By Gucinski, Hermann Ph.D., Michael J. Furniss, Robert R. Ziemer Ph.D.
and Martha H. Brookes, Editors. 2001
USDA Forest Service, General Technical Report PNW-GTR-509, 2001
<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/pubs/gtr509.pdf>

Note the quote below is authored by USFS scientists.

Quotes:

"Roads have well-documented, short- and long-term effects on the environment that have become highly controversial, because of the value society now places on unroaded wildlands and because of wilderness conflicts with resource extraction."

"(Road) consequences include adverse effects on hydrology and geomorphic features (such as debris slides and sedimentation), habitat fragmentation, predation, road kill, invasion by exotic species, dispersal of pathogens, degraded water quality and chemical contamination, degraded aquatic habitat, use conflicts, destructive human actions (for example, trash dumping, illegal hunting, fires), lost solitude, depressed local economies, loss of soil productivity, and decline in biodiversity."

Comment #27: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Gucinski, Mr. Furniss, Dr. Ziemer and Ms. Brookes say Road consequences include adverse effects on hydrology and geomorphic features (such as debris slides and sedimentation), habitat fragmentation, predation, road kill, invasion by exotic species, dispersal of pathogens, degraded water quality and chemical contamination, degraded aquatic habitat, use conflicts, destructive human actions, lost solitude, depressed local economies, loss of soil productivity, and decline in biodiversity

Quote below is from: Forest Fragmentation and Roads
Published by Eastern Forest Environmental Threat Assessment Center
U.S. Forest Service - Southern Research Station, February, 2023
<http://www.forestthreats.org/publications/su-srs-018/fragmentation>

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quote:

"Fragmentation caused by roads is of special interest because the effects of roads extend tens to hundreds of yards from the roads themselves, altering habitats and water drainage patterns, disrupting wildlife movement, introducing exotic plant species, and increasing noise levels. The land development that follows roads out into rural areas usually leads to more roads, an expansion process that only ends at natural or legislated barriers."

Comment #28: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would the U.S. Forest Service - Southern Research Station employees say the effects of roads extend tens to hundreds of yards from the roads themselves, altering habitats and water drainage patterns, disrupting wildlife movement, introducing exotic plant species, and increasing noise levels

Quote below is from: Watershed's Response to Logging and Roads: South Fork of Caspar Creek, California, 1967-1976

By Raymond M. Rice Ph.D., Forest B. Tilley and Patricia A. Datzman.
USDA Forest Service, Research Paper PSW-146, 1979
<http://www.fs.fed.us/psw/publications/rice/Rice79.pdf>

Quote:

"Disturbances from roadbuilding and logging changed the sediment/discharge relationship of the South Fork from one which was supply dependent to one which was stream power dependent, resulting in substantial increases in suspended sediment discharges."

"Road construction and logging appear to have resulted in increases in average turbidity levels (as inferred from suspended sediment increases) above those permitted by Regional Water Quality Regulations."

Comment #29: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Rice, Mr. Tilley and Ms. Datzman say road construction and logging appear to have resulted in increases in average turbidity levels above those permitted by Regional Water Quality Regulations

Quote below is from: Forest Road Erosion, Sediment Transport and Model Validation in the Southern Appalachians

By Mark S. Riedel Ph.D. and James M. Vose Ph.D.
USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory
Presented at the Second Federal Interagency Hydrologic Modeling Conference, July 28 - August 1, 2002.
http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/pubs/ja/ja_riedel002.pdf

Note the quote below is authored by 2 USFS scientists.

Quote:

"Sediment eroded from gravel roads can be a major component of the sediment budget in streams in this region (Van Lear, et al, 1995)."

Comment #30: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Riedel and Dr. Vose (both USFS employees) say Sediment eroded from gravel roads can be a major component of the sediment budget in streams in this region

Quote below is from: Predicting Road Surface Erosion from Forest Roads in Washington State
By Walter F. Megahan, Ph.D.
from a presentation presented at the 2003 Geological Society of America meeting.
http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2003AM/finalprogram/abstract_67686.htm

Quote:

"Erosion from forest roads can be a large source of sediment in watersheds managed for timber production."

Comment #31: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Megahan say Erosion from forest roads can be a large source of sediment in watersheds managed for timber production

Quote below is from: Statements at a Press Conference with Senator Robert Torricelli, April 28, 1998
By David Montgomery Ph.D., about S. 977 and HR 1376), the Act to Save America's Forests

Dr. Montgomery is an Associate Professor for the Department of Geological Sciences at the University of Washington.

<http://www.saveamericasforests.org/news/ScientistsStatement.htm>

Quote:

"Today, addressing the adverse impacts of forest roads is consistently identified as one of the highest watershed restoration priorities in U.S. forests-in many forested watersheds in the western United States there is a greater road density than stream density. It is simply irrational to spend millions of dollars subsidizing further forest road construction when we are simultaneously spending millions of dollars to offset detrimental effects associated with similar actions in the past."

Comment #32: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would professor Montgomery say we are simultaneously spending millions of dollars to offset detrimental effects associated with roads

Quote below is from: Statements at a Press Conference with Senator Robert Torricelli, April 28, 1998

By Seth Reice Ph.D., about S. 977 and HR 1376), the Act to Save America's Forests

Dr. Reice is Associate Professor of Biology in the Department of Biology and Curriculum in Ecology, University of North Carolina

<http://www.saveamericasforests.org/news/ScientistsStatement.htm>

Quote:

"Clearcutting, along with the vast network of logging roads, result in sedimentation and soil erosion into our national forest's rivers and streams. Sedimentation degrades the water quality, impairs the habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates, and limits the ecosystem functions and services of streams.

The Act to Save America's forests bans clearcutting, restores damaged areas by allowing regeneration of native species, and reduces road building by prohibiting further road construction in core areas of biodiversity. These are necessary steps, to prevent further erosion and will help rehabilitate our forests our streams, and protect our wildlife.

Comment #33: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Reice say Clearcutting, along with the vast network of logging roads, result in sedimentation and soil erosion into our national forest's rivers and streams

Quote below is from: Hydrological processes and pathways affected by forest roads: what do we still need to learn?

By Luce, Charles H. Ph.D., USFS Rocky Mountain Research Station

Published in Treesearch USFS, 2002

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/23954>

Note the quote below is authored by a USFS scientist.

Quote:

"Almost everywhere people live and work they build and use unimproved roads, and wherever the roads go, a range of environmental issues follows."

"Among the environmental effects of unimproved roads, those on water quality and aquatic ecology are some of

the most critical. Increased chronic sedimentation, in particular, can dramatically change the food web in affected streams and lakes."

"The nearly impervious nature of road surfaces (or treads) makes them unique within forested environments and causes runoff generation even in mild rainfall events, leading to chronic fine sediment contributions."

"If we look at the issue of what we need to learn or the research priorities for forest road hydrology, I would argue that the areas of cutslope hydrology and effectiveness of restoration efforts are perhaps most critical."

"At a few sites in the mountains of Idaho and Oregon a substantial portion of the road runoff (80-95%) came from subsurface flow intercepted by the cutslope (Burroughs et al., 1972; Megahan, 1972; Wemple, 1998)."

Comment #34: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Luce say among the environmental effects of unimproved roads, those on water quality and aquatic ecology are some of the most critical

Quote below is from: Erosion on logging roads in northwestern California: How much is avoidable?

By John McCashion and Raymond Rice Ph.D.

Published by the Journal of Forestry, January 1983

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/research/treesearch/3445>

Quote:

"A study was made on 344 miles of logging roads in northwestern California to assess sources of erosion and the extent to which road-related erosion is avoidable. At most, about 24 percent of the erosion measured on the logging roads could have been prevented by conventional engineering methods. The remaining 76 percent was caused by site conditions and choice of alignment. On 30,300 acres of commercial timberland, an estimated 40 percent of the total erosion associated with management of the area was found to have been derived from the road system."

Comment #35: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Rice and Mr. McCashion say an estimated 40 percent of the total erosion associated with management of the area was found to have been derived from the road system

Quote below is from: Road Development, Housing Growth, and Landscape Fragmentation In Northern Wisconsin: 1937-1999

By Hawbaker, Todd J. Ph.D., Volker C. Radeloff Ph.D., Murray K. Clayton Ph.D., Roger B. Hammer Ph.D., and Charlotte E. Gonzalez-Abraham Ph.D.

Published in Ecological Applications, 01 June 2006

[https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1890/1051-0761\(2006\)016%5B1222:RDHGAL%5D2.0.CO%3B2](https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1890/1051-0761(2006)016%5B1222:RDHGAL%5D2.0.CO%3B2)

Quote:

"Roads remove habitat, alter adjacent areas, and interrupt and redirect ecological flows. They subdivide wildlife populations, foster invasive species spread, change the hydrologic network, and increase human use of adjacent areas." (abstract)

Comment #36: Ranger Stonesifer, if as you say logging and road construction restores Resilient Vegetative Conditions why would Dr. Hawbaker, Dr. Radeloff, Dr. Murray, Dr. Clayton, and Dr. Gonzalez-Abraham say Roads remove habitat, alter adjacent areas, and interrupt and redirect ecological flows

Some so-called resource specialists on the IDT cast away their land ethics and values they had when they graduated from college to fit in with the USFS. When the draft EA for the proposed Tyler's Kitchen timber sale still contains treatments that will cause damage to the resources and my daughter's objection is rejected by the DRF she will have court standing. The IDT members will be asked to testify.

Ranger Stonesifer, I'm sorry you did not learn earlier that your IDT is not capable of completing the NEPA process honestly. Even a child knows commercial timber sales like this one will inflict tragic damage to the natural resources in and downstream from the sale area. Your IDT members know this too. Incredibly, your Scoping Package Purpose and Need claims this sale will restore Resilient Vegetative Conditions. Your IDT members will write anything to please you. Do you think this timber sale is what the public really wants?

Your IDT members should be ashamed. Anyone besides a silviculturist would be embarrassed that a USFS line-officer would propose such a thing. Ranger Stonesifer you should have visited the sale area yourself before now to determine if the trees were in such bad shape they needed to be killed with chainsaws. If this weren't so tragic it would be laughable to think that so-called professionals would come up with such nonsense.

Even lay members of the public know commercial timber sales "restore" nothing except the purchaser's financial bottom line.

The pictures shown in Photo Attachment #15 were taken by members of several environmental groups in R-6. Pictures don't lie. The NEPA documents for several of these units said at least 1 natural resource would be "restored" by the timber sale. The line-officers across the nation who are Responsible Officials used the words "restore" and "restoration" willy nilly without thinking. Many of them (like you) don't know the definition of "restore." (see below) I suggest you read timber harvest science in Opposing Views Attachment #1 before you assume commercial logging will bring the land "back to an original or normal condition."

re*store
(ri-stôr)
tr.v. re*stored, re*stor*ing, re*stores

1. To bring back into existence or use; reestablish: restore law and order.
2. To bring back to an original or normal condition: restore a building; restored the patient to health.
3.
 - a. To place in a former position or location: restored the book to the shelf.
 - b. To put (someone) back in a former position or role: restore the emperor to the throne.
4. To make restitution of; give back: restore the stolen funds.

"return (someone or something) to a former condition, place, or position"

I hope you can see your problem.

Request for changes to be made to the upcoming draft EA Indicate:

- 1) why the resources need restoration,
- 2) the natural resources in the area that will likely be harmed by the timber sale treatments
- 3) why the statements by expert scientists in Opposing Views Science Attachment #21 do not apply to the Lolo National Forest

Your July 1, 2024 Tyler's Kitchen Fuels Reduction and
Forest Health Project Scoping Information Document

contains no discussion of Climate Change

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes significant investments in wildfire risk reduction and ecosystem restoration to protect and promote natural carbon removal.

President Biden's Bipartisan Inflation Reduction Act allocates \$19 billion to support climate-smart agriculture, providing additional funding for wildfire risk reduction and investing almost \$3 billion to support carbon sequestration in urban forests and national public lands.

Your proposal to remove merchantable trees on 9.5 square miles of national public lands is totally inconsistent with President Biden's Inflation Reduction Act goals.

Most people understand mature forests suck in carbon from the atmosphere. Who do you think you are?

You will send me a copy of your legal ad announcing you are dropping the proposed Tylers Kitchen timber sale or it will be necessary for me to contact Ali Zaidi who serves as Assistant to the President and National Climate Advisor. In this role, he leads the White House Climate Policy Office, which coordinates policy development and President Biden's all-of-government approach to tackle the climate crisis

It's easier and less stressful to do a good job from the beginning than it is to mess things up and try to justify your mismanagement.
