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Thompson Creek "Pilot" comments

1 message

Sat, Apr 20, 2013 at 11:11 AM

To: skellehe@blm.gov

Greetings,

Below are my comments re: the upcoming Pilot Thompson Timber Sale. I have a lot of concerns about this sale. Specifically:

1) Unit 19-4 should be dropped from the Pilot Thompson Timber Sale.

The unit is the most intact and fire adapted forest stand included in the Pilot Thompson Timber Sale. Many large trees are still proposed for removal in this unit, including whole groupings of large old trees. The proposed canopy reduction in the unit will "downgrade" Nesting, Roosting, and Foraging habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl. New road must also be created to facilitate logging the area. The unit underburned nicely in 1987 and maintains a relatively open structure dominated by large, old trees. The unit simply does not demonstrate dry forest restoration principals or represent overly dense forest in need of thinning. The unit should be canceled.

2) Unit 20-1 should be dropped from the Pilot Thompson Timber Sale.

The unit contains many large trees marked for removal and is probably the worst mark in the entire Pilot Thompson Timber Sale. According to the Timber Tally provided by the BLM over 140 trees greater than 20" DBH are marked for removal in unit 20-1. The mark proposes to target nearly all the large douglas fir in this stand for removal. A new "tractor swing trail" is proposed to be created across the ridge above this unit through an area of healthy oakwoodland with a nice native grass understory. A relatively large amount of road renovation is also required to log the area, the road in question is currently closed, gated, and is healing over nicely. This unit should be canceled.

3) Institute a 20" DBH upper diameter limit for the project.

The use of age based tree removal guidelines are problematic on many levels. First and foremost, age based removal guidelines are vague, difficult to verify and account for, and subject to a large degree of personal interpretation. The difficulty in monitoring and verification of the age base guidelines have and will continue to create controversy. The agency should consider a diameter limit of 20" DBH to provide for the retention of all large, old trees in the project area.

4) No new roads.

For all the usual reasons, watershed impacts, already high road densities, the use of these roads by OHV's, the impacts to wildlife, the increased opportunity for dumping, etc.

Please re-consider these units and keep remaining roadless areas roadless.

Thank you.

