

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** H.R. 1755 should be passed  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:15:56 PM

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- 1) Pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks;
- 2) commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 3) commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 4) the only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands;
- 5) logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance

[REDACTED]  
Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H. R. 1755  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:37:48 PM

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Chairman Kanna,

I live in Montana and am exceedingly concerned about forest management, especially in the West. Please pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H. R. 1755.

When it comes to our forests, we have competing interests in the Northern Rockies - the interests of the timber industry who want to diminish and monetize our trees and the general public and climate scientists who want to protect our forests as amazing carbon sinks.

Just a few miles from my home, forest managers are thinning out an old growth forest! They are following old science and traditional policies which have failed in the past. They do not recognize that the practice of thinning and commercial logging (actually, this is essentially the same thing) emits more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires and often make wildfires burn more intensely. In this day and age, the most effective way to protect communities is not to thin the forest but to assist home owners to harden their landscaping and do defensible community space pruning. Last but certainly not least, forest thinning disrupts wildlife habitat and migration corridors.

Please pass H. R. 1755.

Thank you!

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** NREPA and 30 x 30 risks  
**Date:** Wednesday, March 16, 2022 9:15:05 AM

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Dear Chairman Khanna:

Please give the utmost of earnest consideration to the passage of the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act. It would preserve as Wilderness, under the Wilderness Act of 1964, 22 million new acres in five states, Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, eastern Oregon, and eastern Washington.

As President Biden's 30 x 30 proposal is addressed, there are many ways it can be taken advantage of by the barons of money and power, pretending to preserve land while actually exploiting it. NREPA would actually protect it.

It would protect against continued logging - under ruses of "resilience" and "restoration", it would allow our remaining actually resilient forests to continue their ecosystem services, including that of a carbon sink, and it would encourage fireproofing communities in ways that don't actually do more exploitive harm to the land, which is the current danger of 30 x 30. Also, it would protect vast and intact wildlife and ecosystem integrity in this very large area at a time when biodiversity loss is one of the great threats to our biosphere. And lastly, although too infrequently cited, it would allow our souls the balm of living in harmony with and adjacent to the phenomenal Northern Rockies Ecosystem.

Thank you so very much for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** PASS the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act H>R.1755  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:25:11 PM

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Instead of logging forests which in NOT a fire management tool, pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. This makes more sense than actions that in fact make wild fires more intense and add more carbon to the atmosphere. More logged areas is not the answer.

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** House Oversight, Subcommittee on Environment hearing: "Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires" on March 16th  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:50:22 PM  
**Importance:** High

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To: Chairman Ro Khanna,

I am writing to you regarding the upcoming House Oversight, Subcommittee on Environment hearing: "Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires" on March 16th.

Please consider the following:

- 1) Please pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks;
- 2) Commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 3) Commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 4) The only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands;
- 5) Logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 10:01:27 PM

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Hello,

Please consider the following comments regarding the House Oversight Subcommittee on Environment hearing.

- 1) Pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks;
- 2) Commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 3) Commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 4) The only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands;
- 5) logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance.

Regards,

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Comment on 03/16/2022 committee hearing "Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires"  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:47:17 PM

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To Chairperson Ro Khanna and the other members of the committee:

Thank you for this important hearing. Recently I received information from the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. After some research I have concluded that their analysis is wholly correct. I want to add my support for their proposal to pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755.

Also, I want to reemphasize their key points and request that the committee base their decisions on them:

- 1) Commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 2) commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 3) the only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands;
- 4) logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance.

Thank you again.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 15, 2022 9:23:57 PM

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Chairman Ro Kanna and House Oversight, Subcommittee on Environment:

I believe that we MUST look at fire management in broader, more balanced ways. What is good for our environment is good for us, especially when it comes to fire and climate change. As such, I am reiterating the Alliance for the Wild Rockies' points, as follows, of which I am in full agreement.

- 1) Pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks;
- 2) commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 3) commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;
- 4) the only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands;
- 5) logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance.

Respectfully submitted,

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



Testimony of James C. Nelson  
Montana Supreme Court Justice (Ret.)  
In Support of H.R. 1755  
Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act

To: Chair Joe Neguse and to the  
Members of the Subcommittee

Mr. Chair and members of the Subcommittee:

By way of a brief background, I grew up in northern Idaho and became an Eagle Scout fishing, camping, and recreating in the forests and on the lakes of my State. Upon graduating from the University of Idaho in 1966, I enlisted in the Army, became an officer, and served during the Viet Nam conflict. After my discharge, I enrolled in night law school at George Washington University, and worked days as a financial analyst for the Securities and Exchange Commission. Upon graduating from GW with my J.D. degree, my wife, two children and I moved to Cut Bank, Montana where I practiced law. During my 20 years in Cut Bank, I was also elected as the Glacier County Attorney and prosecutor. My family and I regularly recreated and hiked in Glacier National Park and in Yellowstone National Park. I was appointed to the Montana Supreme Court in 1993, was elected and reelected three times, and I retired from the Court in 2013. My wife and I still recreate in our Pacific Northwest parks and scenic areas.

I provide this background because I have spent my entire life living, raising my family, working and enjoying the areas covered by NREPA. Indeed, in my view, this Act is the most visionary and important proposed legislation since the creation of our National Park System.

I know that the Subcommittee will hear and read scientific and other testimony about NREPA. I do not intend to cover that same ground here. I do wish to offer my thoughts on the subject of stewardship, however.

Stewardship is defined as the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving.

The ecosystems and lands covered by NREPA are, without question and without parallel, worth caring for and preserving. NREPA will provide for the responsible overseeing and protection of these ecosystems and lands.

To be more specific, NREPA covers what is left of, what used to be, a pristine and wild America—lands virtually unchanged since first viewed by Lewis and Clark.

There are few, if any, places left in our Nation where one can hunt and fish, hike and camp, and restore one's spirit and soul in natural solitude; where we have it within our power to preserve and enhance the quite beauty of our States, the grandeur of our Mountains, the vastness of our forests, the clarity of our rivers, streams and lakes, and the diversity of our wildlife—grizzly bear, elk, deer, wolverine, lynx, bison, fish of all species, and waterfowl, to name a few—so as to improve the quality of their life and ours and to insure an equal opportunity for our children and future generations to enjoy this unique gift.

We have it within our power to oversee and protect these ecosystems and lands with sound science and economics, creating, in the process, good jobs and ending taxpayer-funded subsidies. We can protect federal lands, preserve access to public lands, and leave private lands to the enjoyment and management of their owners. We have it within our power to oversee and protect some 20 million acres of the most beautiful and pristine lands on earth and to save taxpayers more than \$245 million dollars in so doing.

This, I suggest, exemplifies stewardship—the exercise of our power and ability to oversee and protect something which is worth caring for and preserving--the lands and ecosystems encompassed within NREPA.

With every part of my being, I support NREPA. I do so because, after some 78 years of living, I know and have experienced personally what will be lost if NREPA does not become law.

Respectfully, I ask for the Subcommittee's favorable consideration of the Northern Rockies Environmental Protection Act. I ask your support for this vision for America. Thank you.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Oversight Clerks](#)  
**Subject:** Pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755  
**Date:** Thursday, March 17, 2022 1:08:48 AM

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I would like to voice my support for the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. As wildfires become more frequent and larger in size due to climate change, the way that commercial harvest is currently carried out can often make these wildfires worse by allowing them to burn more intensely, as many climate scientists testified before congress last year. The more effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space clearing, not more logging in forest wildlands.

Thank you for your consideration and please support the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755.

[REDACTED]

March 30, 2022

Dear Chairman Khanna, Chairwoman Maloney and members of the committee:

Thank you for holding this hearing on Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires.

Please pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks since climate change is the main cause of wildfires.

Commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;

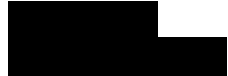
Commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year;

The only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands;

Commercial logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Sincerely yours,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

Alliance for the Wild Rockies

Dear Chairman Ro Kanna and the rest of the committee,

Please Pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks.

Commercial thinning or other forms of commercial logging are not a fire management solution, and often make wildfires burn more intensely, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year.

Also commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year.

The only effective way to protect communities from wildfire is to focus resources and attention directly on communities, in terms of assisting with home hardening and defensible space pruning, \*not\* more logging in forest wildlands.

Logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species and undermines the 30x30 goals that the Democrats say they want to advance.

I survived the campfire on November 8, 2018 that destroyed the town of Paradise, California. My family lost two homes there. It was not because of the beautiful trees in Paradise, that caused this great loss. It was very simple, dry, windy, and hot conditions. The fire came down on us and swept through the town. There had been constant tree trimming and thinning going on in Paradise for years, but this did not prevent the rapid spread of the fire or make it easier to control.

We also lost property in the Bear fire that was part of the North Complex fire in September of 2020. According to the men on the ground, the US Forest Service decided not to fight part of this fire, but let it burn. The wind whipped up and drove the fire down into multiple towns destroying thousands of acres of private property, homes and amazing forests.

In 2015, in North Idaho, there was a large fire started by a lightning strike on Forest Service lands, called the Tower fire. This fire droned on for weeks heading in our direction. There were many times it could have been extinguished, but the Forest Service refused to put it out, thinking that fire is good for the forest. NOT IN THESE CONDITIONS!

The summer of 2021, 12 fires were started by lightning strikes north of our cabin in North Idaho. I spoke with a state firefighter and asked if they were watching the fires or fighting them? He said they had received a mandate from the top down for Full Suppression! Thank the Lord! Within three days these fires were completely extinguished.

In these extreme conditions of drought, heat, wind and dryness, I plead for full suppression of wild fires! It is not the time to play with fire and "clean up the forest". Too many lives, property, trees, homes and animals are lost!

God created these beautiful forests for our benefit, enjoyment, and protection. We need them! Cutting them down is not the solution, neither is letting them burn. Rather protecting them will help us in the fight against climate change.

Thank you for taking into consideration these remarks.



# Forest Management hearing, Lonn comments:

March 21, 2022

Comments submitted to the House Oversight, Subcommittee on Environment concerning the hearing entitled Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires.

E-mailed to [oversight\\_clerks@mail.house.gov](mailto:oversight_clerks@mail.house.gov)

Attn: Evaluating Forest Management hearing

Thank you for having the hearing on the role of forest management as it relates to wildfires.

My home borders Bitterroot National Forest lands in western Montana, and I have followed their forest management practices supposedly done to reduce wildfire risk. I have also lived through two nearby wildfires. As residents of the Ponderosa Pine forest, we realize that the best way to protect our home is by making the house itself fire resistant and through smart landscaping within 100 feet. As fire scientist Jack Cohen suggests, logging the forest more than a few hundred feet away will do nothing to save our home.

While there may be some value to dry lower-elevation forests in thinning small-diameter trees, Bitterroot National Forest's projects around our house have been designed to take the larger trees and are nothing more than commercial logging projects disguised as forest health projects. The logging turns these areas into open, hot, weedy evenly spaced pine plantations. They build endless roads, even through roadless areas, to get the logs out. Behind our house, they logged and built roads over one of the most popular non-motorized trails in the region, over the objections of trail users and nearby residents, destroying the human users' sense of wildness, and fragmenting and degrading wildlife habitat. They cut old growth forests, including trees up to 270 years old. The logging turned the area into an open, hot pine plantation, and the native ground cover was replaced by noxious weeds that thrived in the now dry, hot disturbed soil.

There is no sound science supporting this type of logging for either forest health improvement or wildfire hazard reduction. In fact, even after 3 major "forest health" projects in the area, the Montana Forest Advisory Council still considers the area at "highest risk for catastrophic wildfire".





Above are before and after pictures of old growth ponderosa pine-Douglas fir forest logged by Bitterroot National Forest on the Westside project, done under the guise of forest health. Photos taken from the same point—large Doug Fir on right side is stump in the after picture (tree was 190 years old). Large ponderosa pine barely visible left of my head was cut--age 242 years. BNF denied this area was old growth, but after it was cut, I measured stumps and counted rings. They were wrong, but they had to get the cut out. This area will take several human lifetimes to recover (if ever with a changing climate).



Above photo shows “thinning” and road building on the Westside project, Bitterroot National Forest. This had been a roadless area covered by a shady mature Douglas fir forest.



The Forest Service has also discovered another, even more efficient way to get the cut out: clear cut long and wide fire lines, even if the fire is miles away and moving the other direction. This way they do not even have to do any bothersome environmental analysis, and the public is prohibited from the area until it is too late. This summer, the BNF cut a wide fire line along an existing road (which should have been good enough) during the Trail Creek fire. The fire line, really a 200-foot-wide, miles-long clearcut, was built miles upwind from the fire perimeter **after** the fire had already moved even more miles in the other direction. It was built by a private logging company with feller-bunchers, and then the logs were stacked and sold, probably to the same company they paid to cut the line. The wildfire business has become an enormous industrial complex in this area. Money—taxpayer money—flows freely to private contractors for any wildfire related activity. They build fire lines in designated Wilderness far from any human habitation. They immediately salvage log even before the fire is out, saying the burned trees are hazards, but they also take green trees that survived the fire. On the Trail Creek fire this summer, I noticed they had cut **all** the trees along Montana Highway 43 **after** the fire had moved through. These were also stacked and sold to a timber company.

The Forest Service spews endless propaganda about how western forests are unhealthy due to fire suppression and poor past forest management practices. If these forests are unhealthy (a statement disputed by many forest ecologists), then why would the Forest Service continue to administer the same medicine--fire suppression and logging--that made them sick in the first place? Isn't it at least time to stop fighting fires in the wilderness far from human habitation? Isn't it time to stop the logging that some scientists say is the real cause of most "overgrown forests"?

Most logging on public lands comes at taxpayer expense, and also emits large quantities of greenhouse gases. Many scientific studies show that an easy way to reduce carbon emissions is to simply leave mature forests alone. While the Forest Service likes to claim that they are reducing wildfires and therefore emissions, studies have shown that wildfire emissions are vastly overestimated and that logging releases far more carbon than wildfire. In addition, there is little to no sound scientific evidence that commercial logging reduces wildfires anyway.

The Forest Service no doubt pushes commercial logging to reduce fire because of timber mandates imposed by Washington bureaucrats and politicians beholden to the timber industry. These timber mandates doubled during the Obama administration and then increased by 50% more during the Trump presidency. Biden reduced the timber mandates somewhat, but then brought them back to Trump era mandates with the infrastructure bill. The Build Back Better Bill will mandate even more logging. Isn't it time to base management of our national forests on sound science, and manage them for the greater good of all Americans? I doubt that many of the 325 million people in this country really want more clear cuts. Let's stop this exploitation of our national forests, which is enabled by our forest managers. Instead spend the money to assist people to harden their homes against wildfire. Spend the money to replace the timber beasts with forest ecologists and wildlife biologists and let them spend their time studying and helping the forest ecosystem rather than writing justifications for timber

sales. Spend the money on managing the ever-increasing recreational use, including maintaining existing roads, campgrounds, and trails. Let the forest sequester the enormous amounts of carbon that it can. To reduce wildfires, close down the campfire season earlier. Close roads instead of building new ones. Many large wildfires are human caused, including the most destructive recent one in this area, the Roaring Lion fire, caused by an abandoned campfire. It burned 16 homes. Promote the health of fire-adapted forests by allowing natural fires to burn in remote areas.

John Muir said: “God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools.”

How true,

██████████ Hamilton, Montana

Forests mitigate climate change by sequestering and storing carbon, offsetting approximately 15% of annual U.S. carbon emissions from fossil fuels.

Commercial thinning and other forms of commercial logging emit far more carbon into the atmosphere than wildfires alone, and such logging worsens the climate crisis, as over 200 climate scientists and ecologists told Congress last year; Logging harms countless imperiled wildlife species

Pass the Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act, H.R. 1755. Instead of logging our national forests to subsidize timber corporations, the Forests should be protected as carbon sinks.



March 20, 2022

Dear Committee:

Having fought wildfires for over 35 years with the FS and later as a member on a contract engine crew, I urge extreme caution when trying to develop “hard and fast” solutions to the “growing problems with climate warming on wildfires”. Due to the many variables attendant with wildfire combustion and spread, it is important to make the best decisions on the ground using skills gained only through years of firefighting (and lighting) experience. This knowledge cannot be taught from text books, as many firefighters will tell you. Yes, we know how to “fight fire with fire” and use it to contain, suppress, or steer fire in the direction we want it to go. We congratulate ourselves when everything goes ‘according to plan’. But there are still times when you have the best conditions, favorable weather and experienced crew and the fire just doesn’t play nice. So throwing more money at the problem may also have unforeseen consequences. In response to an overused maxim: “wildfires are slowed down or controlled in well managed forests” I say, “Maybe... sometimes... or not at all.” I have seen a fire rip through a young, vibrantly growing plantation and keep on going. The important thing to keep in mind: there are NO ABSOLUTES! Fortunately, we have some very excellent peer-reviewed studies on fire effects / spread / suppression that will help guide this discussion.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



# Fighting Fire with Fire: Evaluating the Role of Forest Management in Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires

Thank you for holding this hearing and please accept these short comments into that public record.

We agree in particular with the testimony presented by Dr. DellaSala and Carole King - and we have read much of the research on which their testimony is based.

Please do all you can to rescind the funding in the Infrastructure Bill that is intended to wrongly increase logging on public lands under the guise of reducing wildfire.

Give that money instead to counties, towns and individual residents for the sole purpose of modifying their businesses, homes and yards to better resist ignition in the face of fire.

We regularly monitor all logging on the Flathead National Forest and can say without a doubt that, while the Forest Service talks forest "thinning," it routinely sells public timber in timber sales that include clear-cutting. Moreover, many of those clear-cut logging units exceed the 40-acre limit imposed by the National Forest Management Act as well as the larger limits provided as exemptions for bigger clearcuts in the Forest Plans.

As a wealth of research indicates, both forest thinning and clearcutting make wildfires spread more quickly by allowing wind and sunlight to penetrate to the forest floor, where it dries out the vegetation and pushes fire forward more quickly when it occurs.

This makes the wildfire situation worse, not better.

Recent research shows that only about 2% of the forest's carbon is released in a wildfire because only the small diameter limbs and small trees actually burn, with the large trunks of the trees left to continue storing their carbon for many decades.

Logging, on the other hand, leaves the more flammable small diameter trees, limbs and slash, while removing the bulk of the carbon stored in the tree trunks that become logs sent to the sawmill.

Logging will worsen climate change and increase the small diameter fuels and hot, dry, windy weather that drive wildfires.

Please do all you can to leave our public forests standing and instead turn our taxpayer dollars and attention to making businesses, homes and yards more fire resistant.

Thank you,

Keith

[REDACTED]  
Swan View Coalition