

Middle East Fork Project Summary of Objection Issues and Suggested Remedies

Project Name: Middle East Fork Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project

Objector: Mildrexler, David

Objection Number: 0014

Issue 1. (OTHER) "Alternative 2 will result in loss of old-growth forests, destroy prime wildlife habitat, degrade ecological and social values, greatly increase the scale and cost of authentic ecosystem restoration, and potentially increase fire risk."

Suggested remedy: None given.

Regional Review and Response: The preferred alternative does not include commercial harvest in old growth habitat. Pages 3.6-10 through 3.6-18 in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) discuss the non-commercial fuel treatments in old growth habitat in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) for both Alternative 2 and 3. The response to Public Concern 36127 in the FEIS, Volume 2, Appendix H, also discusses the non-commercial fuel treatments in old growth habitat. Both of these references explain that the old growth characteristics will remain after treatments. Public Concern 36125 addresses wildlife habitat, snags, and old-growth values for both alternatives. Public Concern 3606 and 3607 discuss the elements of authentic restoration activities and the benefits of Alternative 2 in this regard. Public Concern 63003 discusses and summarizes the positive change in potential fire effects and that Alternative 2 achieves the greatest potential reduction in unacceptable fire behavior.

Issue 2. (PROCESS) "I strongly support Alternative 3..."

Suggested remedy: None given.

Regional Review and Response: The Region respects the objector's opinion. No response needed.