

CQ371



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To: <ceq_nepa@fs.fed.us>
cc:
Subject: Comments on the NEPA Process

Over the past several years I've witnessed numerous occurrences where the NEPA process has prevented the Forest Service from taking prompt action to address forest health concerns. In each of these cases a handful of people with a very narrow point of view have stopped or delayed action that resulted in substantial financial losses. A specific example was the effort to salvage timber killed by Douglas-fir Bark beetles on the Panhandle National Forest over the past few years. Although the trees were dead and the revenue from the sales were to be used for environmental restoration, there was still objections by these few people that caused enough delays that prevented timely salvage of the wood, thus rendering it worthless.

It is my belief that the NEPA process circumvents the democratic process. For example, in the Douglas-fir bark beetle salvage case, I think it very likely that if you selected 100 people at random off the streets in Spokane to review the forest service proposal to salvage the trees and use the revenue for environmental restoration that not one person would object. I believe that a small group of people who represent far less than one percent of the population has placed the National Forest system in gridlock via the NEPA process to the detriment of our nation. We need to end the NEPA process and replace it with something far more representative of the beliefs that founded our nation.

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