It was recently brought to our attention that the Great Old Broads for Wilderness is among those opposing a forest service thinning plan in eastern Oregon.  Our good friend, ardent environmentalist and sometime Broads activist Dr. Susan Prichard, PHD, (fire ecologist, College of the Environment, SEFS, University of Washington) was asked to sign onto a letter, using some of her papers as evidence against the Plaintiffs in this case. She explained that she and many of her colleagues are *"starting to take more direct action against misinformation campaigns against proactive forest management that is designed to restore more resilience to dry, fire-prone forests*."  Susan is known to the Broads both for working with the Methow Broadband and for putting on a fire ecology webinar for the Broads.

In her email to us, Susan included copies of the letter (James Johnson, Exhibit A) , the Plaintiffs Response and the Reply in Support of Motion for Leave to Participate as *Amicus Curiae.*I attach these below.  She also included a link to her papers:   [***Link to Articles***](https://depts.washington.edu/flame/)(scroll down to Adapting Western Forests Climate Change)  We have read all of this and agree with the argument that science based restorative and adaptive forest management can be a vital tool to protect and repair our existing forest stands.

In their paper "**Wildfire and climate change adaptation of western North American forests: a case for intentional management ",**the authors say that "*Opposition to active forest management is reflected in statements like*'*active forest management is unwarranted because the effects of fire exclusion and forest changes are overstated; . . .is ineffective and counterproductive; . . . should be focused on the wildland urban interface; or wildfires alone can do the work of fuel treatments.' On the other hand, support for active management from the commercial sector suggests that 'forest thinning alone can mitigate wildfire severity; forest thinning and prescribed burning can solve the problem; or managed wildfires hold no real promise.' Each statement polarizes debates and oversimplifies the problems and the solutions.*"  They go on to assert that "*Contributing to the controversy are publications that challenge the significance of forest condition and wildfire regime changes, and the advisability of proactive management without addressing the core arguments*."

The above mentioned paper is included in the link we shared above.  It details many cases of scientific 'misinformation' regarding historic fire occurrence and indications, and details why these claims should be disregarded.

As Susan says in her email to us, "*The problem with these misinformation campaigns is that they seem to have legit points at first glance.  Why wouldn't people oppose cutting some larger-diameter trees as part of these restoration plans? Unfortunately, in many forests (including the Methow), Douglas-fir and true fir species have taken the opportunity to grow big and often too dense in forests that haven't had fire in a long time.  These forests are now maladapted to fire, insects and diseases, and drought.*"  The details of the "21 inch rule" and the new 2021 Amendment (which Plaintiffs are arguing against) are very clearly explained in the Exhibit A attachment.

We realize that we will not always agree with all of the Broads' issues and are fine with that.  However we also believe that we should speak out when we think that some evidence or facts may not be being considered or when we believe misinformation is being held as fact.  We have been told that many other environmental organizations such as The Environmental Defense Fund, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society and Conservation Northwest have all come out in support of science-based adaptive management.  In light of the increasing danger of severe fire events and the challenges to forest regeneration, we believe that serious consideration of active forest management is absolutely necessary.  We must recognize that there is a difference between commercial timber sales and forest restoration projects, even if the latter includes commercial operations. Sometimes, doing the right thing might mean stepping away from what many other environmental organizations might automatically do.

To quote Susan again, "*It would be amazing for these well-intentioned and highly organized people* [environmental organizations such as ours]*to get behind science-based adaptive management and shift their focus to ensuring that agencies such as the USFS and state forestlands carried out their restoration plans as described*".

We could be available to discuss this with you by phone if you'd like. We look forward to seeing you all in person sometime in the future, and meeting our new fearless leader Sara!  Thank you for taking time to read this lengthy appeal.

Wildly ready to get out in the winter sun,

Loren J Karro                                                                   Terry Karro

(she, her, hers)                                                                        (she, her, hers)

Co-Leader, **Alaska Soles**Leader, **Methow Broads**

**Great Old Broads for Wilderness                                        Great Old Broads for Wilderness**

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