Hello again Board members,

I wasn't planning on coming today to give testimony, but after yesterday's tour I felt compelled to come share my thoughts about what I saw on the tour.

Yesterday, I attended 3 funerals. 3 horrible, awful, no good and unnecessary funerals. Using APs to salvage charcoal sticks of no value, either monetary or functional. That's not my definition of success.

If we had been able to have a 42 person discussion yesterday, I would have taken you all into the un-burned RMZ at the last stop. And then, I would have pointed out the distressed forest that I saw there. Dead, cramped, stagnant…all competing for the same limited resources.

As Eric Keller pointed out more than once, when all the trees are removed, there's more water in the stream. Silly me, I thought water was pretty much the most important thing to a fish.

Let me ask you…how do you like your fish? Smoked? Par-Boiled? Or Blackened? Because, under the current no touch buffer, blackened is the only shameful result we can expect.

Eastern Washington has been under forest practice rules that are not only unsuited the fire dependent ecosystem, but historically abnormal. Tribal people used fire the way we might use a Roomba today…Set it and forget it. We deserve forestry practices that encourage fire resilience. Not the largest 21 trees of any old type or no cut buffers. This is not just for SFLOs. It's for ALL eastside forests because we're different.

As board members, you are being asked to implement a 50 foot buffer around NPs. That's a 50 foot buffer of big, thirsty biological straws. Seems counterproductive to me, if the intention is to support fish.

Here are my specific asks: Please, do not impose a 50 foot treed buffer on NPs in Eastern Washington. Please, do not adopt the PHBs that rely on technology so old (a clinometer? Really?) when every person has a super computer in their pocket and most of us have recreational drones for videotaping our grandkids out waterskiing.

Now, I'm sure there will be a lot of hand-wringing about this…"It seems so radical." "Better not upset the apple cart." "But we've always done it this way." But, I want you to remember the 3 funerals you attended yesterday. I ask you to be courageous members and resist the "gotta make rules" for rules sake, because my forests depend on it.

Thank you,

Patti Playfair

patti.playfair@gmail.com