

Michael R. Williams
Michael Liu
Forest Supervisor/Project Manager
Okanogan-Wentchee National Forest
Methow Valley Ranger District

April 28, 2018

Dear Sirs,

We are writing to express our general support for fire safety actions taken by appropriate government agencies to preserve and protect our publicly owned forests and the privately owned properties near them. While we know that wild fire is a natural part of healthy forest life and ecology, we agree that thinning, prescribed burning and restoration (especially near the intersection of public and private land), is sensible and prudent.

However, we object to the Mission Restoration project as it stands to date. We believe that the Forest Service has not met its' duty to be transparent and accountable to the public and responsible in its' leadership of this process. This seems to be the case because of the following:

- 1) No where in this proposal do we see a **budget** showing how much money will be dedicated to monitoring the commercial logging and to the clean up and restoration activities that are so essential to preserving forest life. Without funds to pay for these aspects of the project, we fear they will not be done and the forest will be left more susceptible to extreme wild fire than ever before.
- 2) No where is there a specific or general plan of action for **monitoring** the activities of the commercial logging companies. After speaking with your representative, Paul Nash, it is known that at least one of the companies that will be contracted to do logging has a documented history of breaking the law as well as disregarding contract parameters of past logging jobs where they have been fined for cutting trees that were to be saved or were located on other people's land. People deserve an opportunity to work, but the Forest Service has a responsibility to carefully monitor the work of all contractors who are working on our public lands. In this case, the forest service needs to be especially vigilant and needs to have a funded monitoring plan in place before the project commences.
- 3) The project plan is to leave only 20 - 30 trees per acre in the dry forest areas such as Elderberry Creek. This appears to leave no forest at all, but rather open fields that are quite susceptible to fast moving fires like the Carlton Complex Fire that ravaged the Methow Valley in 2014. We see no need for such severe logging in these areas.

We are definitely in favor of fire prevention management in our national forests, but want to see a complete proposal that will make our communities and our forests safer, not a plan that mainly serves private logging companies leaving unfunded cleanup and restoration in their wake. We ask that you take the time to do this project responsibly by identifying funding to complete it properly and to include thorough monitoring of all contract obligations.

Sincerely,
Pat and David Notter
407C Libby Creek Road, Carlton, WA
Libby Creek Water Shed Association

FAX COVER SHEET

TO	Regional Forester
COMPANY	USDA Forest Service
FAXNUMBER	15038082339
FROM	Patricia Notter
DATE	2018-04-30 06:07:26 GMT
RE	Mission Restoration Project

COVER MESSAGE

Attached is a letter regarding our concerns about the Mission Restoration Project. Thank you for your work on this important project and for considering our concerns. Sincerely, Pat and David Notter