

Dec. 3, 2019

Dear Kristin-Forest Supervisor,

My name is Wayne Bell. I have been a member of the Little Naches Working Group (Steering Committee) since 2012 representing cabin owners. I attended a small group meeting including Erin Black and yourself at the Naches Ranger District Office this past fall.

I am writing you because of my concern about the number of roads proposed for decommissioning in the Little Crow Restoration Project. In review of this restoration project, I find 2.7 miles of decommissioned roads at a cost of \$50,000 completed Oct. 18, 2019. I find another 5.1 miles of road to be decommissioned at a cost of \$97,467 in the year 2021. When I scroll down, I find remaining restoration decommissioning projects totaling 17.03 miles at a cost of \$340,550 to be completed later.

I hope you find this to be excessive as I do. The land and roads are public land and when we consider the Naches Ranger District consists of 49.5% wilderness, another 15% roadless land and previous road decommission of roads 1501, 1703, 1204, 170-261, 1605, I estimate that less than 30% of the Naches Ranger District is open for public use. I find this to be unacceptable.

I have attended numerous meetings, workshops, public gatherings and have read numerous newspaper articles, magazine articles, and pamphlets since 2012. I am convinced that Aquatic Restoration is the driving force for roads being decommissioned. I know that many of these roads could be repaired at a much-reduced cost, that many roads only need minor maintenance, that some are along creeks that contain water less than 4 months of the year, and that some of these roads lead to valued recreational sights.

I would like you to ask the Naches Ranger District staff to explain why each of these roads needs to be decommissioned because when I ask, I get no answer. Without knowing the "why", I cannot make a case for or against the decommissioning of any specific road. The research that has been available to me indicates that decommissioning of road and/or placing logs in streams has little or no effect of number of fish in streams. In the Naches Ranger District, decommissioning of some roads has cause far more sediment in streams than was previously noted.

If I could have my wish and this was a perfect world, I would have the U.S. Forest Service return to its original purpose which was to manage the forest (grow trees) for the tax paying public on public land. There are plenty of agencies responsible to Aquatic Restoration (NOA, State & Federal Fish and Wildlife and Yakima Basin Fish Recovery Board). I think the Forest Service needs to cooperate with these agencies but not make Aquatic Restoration their primary goal.

I am available to meet with you in Wenatchee or Naches to discuss this matter further or do a field trip to show firsthand of which I am sharing and talking about.

Sincerely,
Wayne Bell



cc: Kelly Lawrence
Lloyd McGee
Laura Potash

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Okanogan and Wenatchee
National Forests

Kristin M. Bail (Forest Supervisor)

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