A Kaw to Arms

MIDNIGHT PROJECT - Yes it sounds Dark, but here is some light IM shedding on this proposal after deep diving into the illuminating scoping meeting set forth by the Forest Service and our local ranger district. A sizable amount of large TREES will be commercially thinned / logged to “manage the landscape with the purpose of making our Twisp River Corridor a more fire resilient place.

With the amount of money coming into our county for forest restoration, we need to steer this “restoration plan” in an ecological not economic direction, so that, in fact, we will retain the remaining old resilient trees 20” in diameter and above and leave an ecosystem in tact for future generations.

AS the world turns and our Public Land gets manipulated for profit, our precious zones, that help us thrive with nature are in the process of getting overrun and as We Have Witnessed  with The Forest Services’s most recent exploits in the Mission Project (East Buttermilk and Libby Creek ) where “restoration” was left to the logger in a “designation by prescription” forestry approach, what we are left with is old school forest practices where the best leave trees are taken and in many cases within the prescription beyond the minimum written in the EA and contract.   To put it quite frankly the FS restoration plan that was supposed to represent a healthy forest stand was a debacle that gave way to logging a forest stand that took more trees than what was written within the original ecologically sound prescription, and the few spindly little leave trees that are left are reminiscent of the Grinch who stoled xmas trees.

 Amazingly enough, the FS stands by the remains as a successful project that is resilient and ecologically sound.

Granted these projects are complicated and are a huge undertaking, so hats off to our friends within the FS for getting these plans implemented, as something must be done to protect not only our homes but our natural habitat from the ever changing climate. Let’ insure the EA is written that will reflect a logging contract that will insure our ecosystem is left intact.

Like the Trees in Our Backyard, I grew up here. Though, I’m not 300 yrs old, I have a little experience in living with our natural environment. I’ve worked with the forest, and subcontracted with the FS, planting trees, thinning, and am an engine boss in WildLand Fire.  My degrees are in environmental studies and outdoor recreation and I have gone on to be a professional outdoor action sports athlete, and an international ambassador, representing the Methow Valley and our Poorman Creek Second Mile Community.

Retain all trees above 20 “

*I agree with all large trees over 20” in diameter should be kept. The definition of a large tree should be consistent with the OWNF Restoration Strategy which defines large trees as over 20” and very large trees as over 25”.*

Dwarf Mistletoe a rating of 3 or higher for cutting large trees

Prescriptions should be site specific not conditioned based.

No to shaded fuel breaks - they should follow the Rx - With understory thinning and viable leave trees 30 to 40 leave trees in dry sites

There will fire resilience and a heathy forest stand.

I agree with - Where shaded fuel breaks intersect with a treatment unit, the prescription of the unit should prevail –especially in areas of complex old forest stands. Treatments across a full landscape are more effective than isolated, linear treatments