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First name: Larry

Last name: Campbell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: comments on mid-swan project

See attached comments

This proposed project is a timber sale, not a "restoration" project.

Bona fide restoration simply requires removing man made impediments to restoration then allowing nature to heal itself in its exquisitely site specific and infinitely adaptive way.

"Restoring the land to historic conditions" is a concept that fails on many levels and is the source of much abuse by the FS.. Historic conditions have covered a wide range, mostly roadless and usually with far more large trees on the land. You should remove roads and not build any new ones, as well as not remove any large trees. You seem to pick a snapshot in time that most suits your logging agenda.

The nearby wilderness is the best control example we have to judge the results of FS management. The loss of this control at the hands of the FS is would serve the unstated purpose of blinding the public to what is going on, as well as the apparent need of the FS to extend its management to every corner of the forest.

History clearly shows our forests, including wildlife, have been on a steady decline ever since the FS took over from nature in an arrogant attempt to manage better than nature. Intentionally creating habitat fragmentation on its face flies in the face of restoration of habitat that is most important to the species most in need.

The rationale for logging, always more logging, based on excess tree density caused by past indiscriminate fire suppression by the FS is serial abuse, given the FS carries on with even more effective indiscriminate fire suppression. The FS seems to have discovered a perpetual budget restoration mechanism. Spend many millions taxpayer dollars to fight fire, then collect many millions more to "restore" the imbalance caused by those actions.

Given budget limitations and actual effectiveness, thinning trees to possibly protect homes should be limited to within about 100 feet of the homes. The best available fire science shows this to be the only effective and most efficient approach.

The "conditions based" process being used for this project is an affront to NEPA, as has been disclosed by court rulings. You are in the process of selling a pig in a poke that will not be revealed until after the deal is done, at which point the public will have lost the opportunity for fully informed comments and objections. This is quite cynical, even by FS standards.

The recent propaganda from the FS that refers to the public owners of the public forests as "customers" is the latest verbal ploy to portray our forests as simply a storehouse of resources. In fact, in our forested communities the forests are the foundation of our life-support system.

Please decide to stay out of wilderness, not build any new roads, not log large trees, reclaim more existing roads, and use a NEPA process that is transparent and fair to the public owners of the forest.