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Comments: To: Twisp Restoration Project (TRP) Planning Team

Thank you for grappling with our critical local problems of unhealthy forest lands and the exacerbating challenges of current and future effects of rapid climate change including wildfires that threaten habitats of flora, fauna and us humans. The problems are massive, and beneficial landscape-scale interventions are needed, so I applaud your good intentions in tackling the problems.

After reading most of the documentation posted on the web about this TRP and many of the public comments (thank you for the Reading Room), I have noted that there are many carefully researched comments from people with substantial relevant knowledge and experience providing constructive feedback about concerns and alternate approaches to addressing those concerns. I hope that the TRP team will give all that feedback careful consideration, wrestle on the issues collaboratively and transparently with the individuals and groups who offer alternative responses to problematic areas of the TRP proposal, and find out-of-the-box approaches to accomplish what human interventions can scientifically and/or reasonably be expected to contribute to nature's own processes, which are infinitely more capable and unpredictable than humans.'

My highest-level comment is that Kent Woodruff's outline of restoration-focused principles, in his comment letter dated 12/18/20, strikes me as a helpful and foundational framework for a project such as this. I would like you to consider framing this project's next analytical, communication/engagement and decision-making processes around discussion - and where necessary, debate - about those principles.

The rest of my comments are focused on three big-picture needs that I think are critical as you move forward. The first is the need for more and different means for public involvement in the TRP process going forward. I believe that our community desperately needs - and understands the need for - the Forest Service as our largest land steward to be successful in making local progress. Our local community, collectively, is a partner in protecting, restoring and maintaining health and healthy functioning of our forests, other ecosystem components, human habitats and human relations.

I understand that the standard, legal process allows for no additional public comment periods other than that for formal objections following the final FS decision. I assume that also means that no further communications with the public are required. I think that adhering to those minimum requirements would be a mistake, and I hope that you will take a different and more community-focused approach than required, with frequent and creative approaches to information sharing and engagement.

The second big-picture need is for a comprehensive and transparent adaptive management approach in addressing the needs and prescriptions in the TRP. If this need was addressed in the available documents, I apologize for missing it. I noted among the public comments that ecological statistician Lucinda Tear's letter includes what appears to be a comprehensive framework that seems like it could be helpful.

The third big-picture need I want to emphasize is for consideration of how the FS might be able to help support R&D for the long-standing dearth of local productive uses of excess biomass fuel that is critical to remove from our forests as quickly as possible (with as little collateral damage as possible, of course). One possibility that might help the fledgling and potentially beneficial C6 Forest to Farm project would be to provide feedstock for biochar production and soil enhancement concept research from forest treatment demonstration plots designed for learning and public ground-truthing. Since the economics of forest restoration, given current conditions in both forests and society, are so challenging and fraught, public agency investments in locally-scaled biomass

conversion techniques, organizations and jobs makes good ecological and social sense.

You deserve to be commended, encouraged and supported in your herculean efforts, in hard times, to do right by our ecosystem and our community. I hope I have been and can continue to be helpful.

~ submitted with sincere regard and good wishes,

Nancy Farr
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