

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/18/2020 11:08:11 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

I am from 2nd mile ranch and second generation near the top of the Poor man creek drainage.

I have grown up here in the Methow Valley working in the woods, thinning, planting, and wildland firefighting. I also have a degree in Environmental studies and am an outdoor recreation professional.

The Twisp River Restoration project as it is written now shows significant negative environmental impacts mainly on the terrestrial side of the project namely with the overstory that will be commercially thinned. I see there is good intent with HRV and FRV analysis to make a treatment plan, and can appreciate the work that has been put into the TRRP thus far, but in my opinion the plan does not insure a healthy ecosystem for our grandchildren.

With prescriptions of the overstory to be cut on up to 80% slopes there will be significant impact on our streams and rivers.

It does not look like the terrestrial and aquatic parts of the project are working in conjunction as the proposed commercial thinning part of the operation will have significant impact on the aquatics.

Vegetation RX Overstory

Logging in roadless areas.- I have walked, skied and flown over the area prescribed to be logged up Poorman creek and do not see how the commercial gain for logging this area will out way the impact it will have on our natural environment for generations to come.

I do understand that if there could be select cutting and understory thinning operations to mitigate wild land fire hazard, but building roads and commercially logging this area will have irreparable impact on our natural environment and bio diversity.

Poorman Creek and its upper reaches is a wildlife sanctuary.. We are seeing wolves return to this area. There are mountain lions, bear, birds of prey and other native species all along the food chain that will be significantly impacted by the disruption commercial thinning will cause on this wild land.

Erosion

Stay off steep slopes in Poreman drainage and the building of roads for commercial thinning. specifically 490-south to 484 - sediment delivery to Poreman creek

Wild life reserves - should stay protected and old growth trees should not be taken for firebreaks within the reserves.

The size of trees to be cut. If a prescription is to be logged then stick to harvesting 20"dbh or under. not 21 to 30"

Marking Trees for cutting. The Forest Service must be responsible for marking the trees to be select cut.

Showing the work. Forest Service needs to show their work. Where is the money coming from for the reforestation part of the project. ie- the understory work proposed. As the plan stands now it looks like the overstory harvesting part will benefit the private sector, pay the Forest Service a fraction and then the clean up /restoration part of the terrestrial plan is hanging?

Commercial thinning the upper Twisp River - The upper Twisp River with the Crescent fire and other older wild land fires that happened make for natural fire breaks . Logging does not seem necessary for fire suppression This will also cause significant erosion and sediment delivery impacting the Twisp River aquatics.

Commercial thinning, reforestation, fire suppression, and understory work.
Keep local commercial forestry companies and money within the community for this project

ATV Trails. It does not belong within the plan.

On that note we should be future forward thinking towards low impact recreation we are going to get a lot more people coming to do hiking ski touring mountain biking we don't need to add motorized vehicles at all.

This projects scale and complexity demand additional public engagement.
Conditioned based management - does not give the public enough involvement.
Incorporate and adaptive management strategy that is able to make corrections with new information.
Slow this plan down until a better management style is put back into place mandated from Washington DC.

Monitoring and Development

Develop a way of monitoring and tracking the projects.

Revise the TRRP from the comments and concerns of the public and our conservation entities.
Hold public meetings, field trips etc to hear the public on the revise project accordingly.

Approach this Twisp River Restoration Project as a model for the rest of the United States of how government agencies, conservation entities, and the public can all work together to formulate a model project with the longevity of our ecosystems and bio diversity staying intact while managing the forest.
Would that not be great?!

I look forward to help by being an ally of positive change for our community, conservancies, and agencies.
I would appreciate a face to face with the District Ranger, Chris Furr when possible .

Thank you for listening.

Michael Bird Shaffer