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Comments: Overall I'm satisfied with the work proposed in the Rumbling Owl Project. It will increase wildfire resilience, improve habitat values and provide timber. what follows are some points of concern.

1) is there a management strategy for dealing with weeds, particularly hound's tongue, which are found in great numbers on the Barber Cr cattle lease? Section 29 especially has lots of hound's tongue, but other sections are bad as well. Soil disturbance and seed dispersal by machines may lead to more noxious weeds yet unless there's some mitigation practices, with pre-treatment weed spraying and cleaning of machine tracks being but two ideas that come to mind.

2) section 32 east of Barber Cr Rd has mature ponderosa pines, crowded by lots of ladder fuels. Thinning could greatly enhance this stand and mitigate wildfire risk. To provide good winter snow intercept for ungulates, a continuous strip of good habitat currently exists basically north of Holland Lake, going west along the north side of Holland Lake Rd. Minimizing logging to cutting a 15-20' perimeter around ponderosa pines would maintain snow intercept thickets while also increasing habitat for the large pines.

3) more prescribed fire would be of benefit to larger sections of the project area, both to increase forest health as well as minimize wildfire risk. Expand the planned prescribed burns in sections 16, 21 and 22 as well as adding prescribed burns in the Swan foothills, sections 03, 10, 23, 25, 37 and 39.

4) some of the restricted roads in the project area are good for hiking and XC skiing. While I agree with limits on motorized recreation/access, I hope that these roads will remain accessible or get improved for human powered means of recreation. Improvements would be clearing these roadbeds of brush and blow down. Some of the roads we recreate on are proposed to be used as log haul roads; will these still be usable after rehabilitation? It's unclear to me whether they'd simply be gated off and seeded in or more draconian measures such as re-sloping, scarifying and throwing a bunch of wood debris in the road are considered (as you can image, I'm rooting for the former). I added a map with little scribbly lines showing current old roadbeds in use for hiking and XC skiing. There's also an option to clear the road from section 16 to 15 running just west of treatment 307, which would make a nice connection between the lower and upper Barber Cr road systems. I'm well aware that advocating for more trails / improving old road beds is blasphemy in these parts, and that this comment will likely fall on deaf ears, yet recreation is of great importance to me and I know of more folks who like to do the same. The Swan Valley is quite limited in terms of easy access, lower valley infrastructure and as we all know it's important to get enough exercise and connect with nature.

Thanks.