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Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is in reference to the Austin Project #53678 and forest work to be done concerning that project. We spoke earlier about my concerns dealing with road closures decommissioned or gated that may be closed permanently. You told me there were to be no road closures in this project and that sounds good - but does this mean C.F.R. closures or are other roads going to be closed by berm, tank traps or pulling out culverts at the end of the project without C.F.R.?

These kinds of closures don't only result in temporary closures but may become permanent through none use blocking access not only for public use but also for fire access costing extra time and labor in getting to a fire. Many times these types of closures are in the harvest or thinning contract. Would you know and could you give me information concerning whether or not this is so for this project?

Thank you.

The Malheur Forest had a project along the middle fork of the John Day and no harvest removal was allowed within 300' of the stream - yet a prescribed fire was ignited from the 20rd. close to the rivers edge resulting in many killed trees and added fire fuels that were or could not be harvested only fallen and left. Because of their hazard to the roadway and scenic corridor. Prescribed fire is not a good or sound method of thinning, piling of precommercial material and burning of piles reduces future fire hazard and results in less mortality to the remaining stand. A better result all around.

Stream restoration should be considered very carefully and I am sure only qualified personal - hydrology and fisheries are consulted but please consider some streams that have had restoration or rechanneling done in the past.

Take a look at camp creek that flows into the middle fork of the John Day - over done to the pint of ruination not restoration. These streams contain native species of steelhead. Salmon and trout. No stocking of hatchery fish. Even the North Fork of Bridge Creek has native trout high up into it's headwaters. These streams are very sensitive and should be considered very carefully before any restoration work to be done.

These are a few of my concerns dealing with this project. I thank you for your efforts and know you have already devoted much time personally to these issues in your own job capacity. Thanks again.

P.S. I am a former timber cruiser and timber crew leader on the Malheur and still have many friends in the timber presale dept. in the office and in Burns. I can only speak of them highly.