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First name: Joanne

Last name: Cooper

Organization: Libby Creek Watershed Association

Title:

Comments: Objection to the Mission Restoration Project final EA, Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Mission Restoration Project

An EIS is necessary for the Mission "Restoration" Project in the Methow Valley, Okanogan County, WA.

I object to this project moving forward without the comprehensive study of an EIS.

It's all connected: The endangered listed salmonids depend on a hospitable aquatic environment but with sediment reaching the creek via land sliding roads, logging truck's dust and cow's erosion the sediment would not be within a safe range for a thriving population. The MRP includes within the project logging the riparian zone, therefore removing the overstory and shade provided, thus the temperature of the creek will rise and further make for an inhospitable environment. The cows graze in the forest and walk through the creeks degrading them because the USFS has an old agreement still in place with the ranchers. And the cattle have invasive species seeds in their hooves and hides. The seeds drop, sprout and spread which will then bring the USFS with toxic herbicidal sprays on their backs that will kill the invasive species, or not, but can be reapplied and happily supplied by Dow Chemical or whoever has the contract, and will most definitely get into the groundwater, so when you go to your sink for a glass of water you will be drinking herbicide. This very herbicide has been banned by most of the European countries because they have been proven, beyond a doubt scientifically, to be carcinogenic. But the herbicide producers in the US have big lobbies in Washington that are powerful enough to persist in poisoning the earth and us.

It's all connected: Fire suppression was a mistake. Whoops! But we just can't stop, says the USFS. So the forests are thick in places and mistletoe and bark beetles love a thick forest. The USFS says they can fix this mistake with timber extraction. As if timber extraction were equivalent to fire. It's not. The USFS believes that it is the best available science to log the forest rather than allow natural, necessary fire to clean up the mess which is what has always happened historically and not so tragically as it is perceived today. Smokey the Bear says: Only you can prevent forest fires! But all those prevented forest fires are likely to result in incinerating us if we don't stop suppressing forest fire. Get it?

It's all connected: Our planet is warming. Climate change is contributed to by releasing CO2 into the atmosphere. The USFS could sequester carbon by leaving the forest in place or they can release carbon from the forest ecosystem through timber extraction. Somehow the USFS came to the conclusion that it wants a bigger footprint so they are voting for timber extraction. Hey USFS!-How about changing your ways and adopting a new policy to store carbon in the forest and be a champion for turning our global climate change around. Be a part of the solution.

It's all connected: The USFS loves roads for all their various activities and they are hard pressed to let any go just in case they might need them later. I heard that the USFS has built more roads than anyone else in the world and that their road system could reach around the earth 15 times. Roads cost a lot of money for maintenance and eat up the USFS budget. Maybe that's why they need to sell the forest. Road sediment falls into waterways and ruins aquatic habitats for endangered salmonids. Roads break up wild animal pathways and then these animals are that much closer to extinction because of loss of habitat. Strange that the USFS is in charge of stewarding the wild animals of the forest since it appears that they view the birds, fish and animals, both threatened and endangered, as collateral damage casualties, such as the mule deer and the wolves and the bear and the salmonids.

It's all connected: Clearing the forest short of a few trees left per acre is a grand recipe for devastating conflagration, not to mention in the meantime, a fairly inhospitable habitat for wild animals, recreation, peace and quiet, natural resources for health, scientific study, educational classroom for our children, spiritual renewal and aesthetic viability. What is the USFS thinking? I'm afraid that their decision to commercially harvest our forest lands is going to kill us. It is my understanding that the USFS intends to extract timber all over the West, ostensibly to save us, our homes and communities from megafire, but I believe that their motivation is not so pure and that if you follow the money you'd have your answer for-What makes the USFS tick?

It's all connected. But if we can't see that or help each other see it, then we are done for.

Joanne Cooper

Member, Libby Creek Watershed Association