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First name: Wyatt

Last name: Franke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Sir or Man

I stongly support this much needed forestry project in the Upper Swan. I have been hunting the Swan for seven years now and feel that the habit value has decreased for wildlife over the years. Mostly pertaining to food verses shelter. Using OnX Hunt I mark and journal all my hunting expeditions since 2012 and have found that not only less sightings of both bears, wolves, deer, and elk but I am also seeing game in poor conditions. Deer and elk are much weaker coming out of spring scouting and poor antler growth during my fall buck count. Wolf and bear sign even seems to be on the decline with last grizzly bear spotted in 2016 just a mile from the highway on a gated road. I feel that while sheltered habitat is very important but so is food sources as well (timber havest and Pre-Scribed burning). It has become more difficult over the years finding good areas that meet effective hunting locations that provide transition zones from different aged trees as it is either overgrown or just impassable jungle that holds little habitat value. I have hunted the Swan over 18 hours with 12 miles covered this year alone and saw just 3 deer. This is not just one location either but 5 and I have traveled all the way down too Holland Lake and even near Swan Lake. Currently the game check stations are also showing similar numbers. As I take a week off this fall this will be the first time in 6 years I will not be enjoying my time in the Swan Valley as it is no longer in my opinion good quality habitat. Thank you for taking the time and reading this. I am very passionate about the outdoors and feel this project would improve the Swan both for the public's greater interest and habitat quality. Again thank you.

Wyatt Franke