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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

My name is Wyatt Trull. I am a 2017 graduate of the Forestry program at the University of Montana. I studied at the University of Helsinki in the forestry and agriculture department for a semester. I have worked for the USFS in Seeley as a firefighter and I have worked on a private wildfire engine based out of Superior, MT. I have worked for the DNRC as an Inventory Technician, a Forestry Technician, and a temporary Wildland Firefighter. I have worked for a private contractor doing pre-commercial thinning. I am now employed by Nathan Richardson with Euchre Mountain logging and I am being trained to operate his harvester. My wife, Sophie Trull, grew up in Condon, and we look forward to having kids and raising them in the Swan Valley as well.

I feel I have a well-rounded perspective on forest management. I know there are a lot of perspectives I have not had experience with. I am young, and have a lot to learn. I have always tried to push myself to understand people I disagree with and have found the world of forestry to have a lot of unexplored common ground. I have a lot of optimism about the future of the Swan Valley. I think there is so much opportunity for great work to be accomplished, and I think there are a number of regional and cultural trends working in our favor.

I am excited to see that the USFS is trying to get more work done. I have seen the complications of bureaucracy and empathize with the experience of trying to accomplish a lot of work under public scrutiny. I don't envy your challenge and I know it's not a perfect world.

Here are my concerns:

Why does the project need to be so big? It seems as though a good amount of work is being accomplished through stewardship projects. I know that litigation is a long process and having more tied up behind a single decision could mean that a successful defense would open up 70,000 acres vs. 1500 acres, but I think it is a double edge sword. What if it doesn't pass? What happens to those acres then? Are you confident that there will be other opportunities for these acres to re-enter the management process if denied this time? In my limited experience fringe groups that litigate aren't interested in better practices or more compromise. They are interested in blocking or delaying projects all together. I appreciate your willingness to treat the document as an ongoing process at the meeting. I am someone who wants to see management happen. People who don't want anything to happen also love that because they can stay quiet until after the comment period is over and the project has been finalized, so that they can spring the errors they found as fire power for a lawsuit. I am confident that for weeks these groups have scanned these proposals for errors and intentionally not vocalized them during the comment period. I appreciate your optimism but I think you are ignoring that the people who have been the biggest roadblock don't want to have discussions or compromise. Instead, they want nothing to happen at all. In my limited experience, I don't see how you can accurately describe 70,000 acres in a document with the amount of time you have had. I can empathize and understand it's an ongoing process. These litigators are excited that your proposal is unfinished and will capitalize on any errors or generalities. I believe I speak for many people when I say I wish sales could happen faster, but that doesn't mean I want to risk 70,000 acres getting locked up so more work can possibly be guaranteed sooner when the momentum is already building with 3-5 year stewardship contracts.

I understand the challenge of being productive and pleasing lots of parties but that is always the challenge of forestry. Public land is multiple use by nature. I think lately the trend is to find ways to please all vocal parties. I feel our agencies should rather seek to disappoint all parties equally. Values are competing and the middle ground is the important pursuit. That is hard to define I realize, but I think working to optimize every value leaves

out the middle. One value that I never hear articulated is forest products utilization. Forests are a renewable resource owned by the nation that the agency has a responsibility to utilize. I ask that forest product utilization be equally disappointed, not optimized, but that's because my value of forest products, like a majority of people with that value, is a productive compromise that improves forest health and spurs industry. People asking for values that they want to be optimized, ought to be disappointed because that is the nature of being a public land owner.

In conclusion, I think that there is far too much common sense and truth behind a future of productive, stewardship-driven forest management in the Swan Valley. I beg you to not get in a rush and underestimate fringe groups. Please do good, thorough work at a reasonable rate. I trust that the momentum of forest management is positive and there is no need to be in a hurry.

Thank you for your consideration,

Wyatt Trull

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