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Comments: SXwUYTN-KANIKSU CONNECTIONS 'TRAIL' PROJECT

Working on a right-of-way(road building)crew in the 3 Rivers District for approximately 10 years, I have built new,reconstructed closed roads,and decommissioned (removed) others.

The extent of road decommissions in this trail project are unacceptable.

The road management table in the proposed action document indicates most roads being considered are currently "closed" roads.

Decommissioning a closed road containing heavy vegetation with equipment performing minor closure work will have far greater adverse effects on the eco system than just to forgo the project.

In all cases of decommission, there is a vulnerable time of several years from the actual removal of a road and the return of vegetation to these areas for soil and bank stabilization.

There will be disasters in which decommission work will cause significant environmental damage.The risk is not needed.

Some closed roads are currently impassable with a motor vehicle, but they are a source of quick and less destructive access for heavy equipment in the event of a wildfire. These roads also provide a break for wildfire containment.

Forest policies change. Once these roads are removed it will be difficult to implement revised forest management practices such as access to thinning,disease control, and eco system stabilization in these areas.

The cost for this work would be prohibitive and funds better suited for other aspects of forest restoration.

It is my recommendation to leave the closed roads in place until a more thought out plan and use can be obtained.