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Title:

Comments: Scoping comments for the Sxwuytn Trail project

February 5, 2020

Scoping cimments for the Sxwuytn Trail project

Dear Ranger Sears, Ms. Flora and IDT members,

I knew the Colville NF was one-of-a-kind years ago when I worked there. It attracts line-officers and unscrupulous, shameless specialists who all enjoy snuggling with and genuflecting to the employees who work for the natural resource extraction corporations. Most of them are unaware of their pathetic, unethical, corrupt behavior. A good brainwashing machine leaves its victims clueless.

It started with Supervisor Brazell. Of course he excelled at deceiving the public to reduce critical public comments on NEPA documents that generate volume and simultaneously inflict long-term damage to the amenity resources. We on the NezPerce NF had to deal with this goon after he left the Colville NF for several years.

Then you had to live with Laura Jo West's treachery. She did the unthinkable. She planned and prepared the A to Z stewardship contract. Why? She was ordered by U.S. Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers to do so.

Comment for which I'd like a meaningful response in the Response to Comments section in the draft NEPA document: On September 18, 2013 new Colville NF forest supervisor Rodney Smoldon signed and awarded the one-of-a-kind A to Z stewardship contract which gave Vaagen Brothers Lumber, Inc. control of logging in the 84.4

square mile Mill Creek drainage. The fix was in. Vaagen was the only bidder. Never before has a USFS line-officer turned over control of national forest land to a lumber mill. They were allowed to meeting requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), layout the logging unit and mark and cruise the trees they will take to the mill ... without USFS oversight.

Supervisor Smoldon's public deception and mismanagement continues.

Comment for which I'd like a meaningful response in the Response to Comments section in the draft NEPA document: Supervisor Smoldon is still backhanding the 325 million Americans who own the Colville NF. He is currently accepting scoping comments on the proposed Sxwuytn 'Trail' - Kaniksu Connections Project. This tells the public that the project will either construct, relocate or obliterate the Sxwuytn Trail. Why would Supervisor Smoldon trick the public into believing this is a trail project? Clearly, he is trying to reduce the public comments. This so-called "trail" project is really a massive timber sale that will log 38.3 square miles and construct 51 miles of sediment producing temporary road. This is enough temp road to stretch from Colville to Deer Park. One would think J.D. Jones (Fisheries Biologist) and Rob Lawler (Hydrologist) would know this will destroy the aquatic resources in and downstream from the sale area.

Comment for which I'd like a meaningful response in the Response to Comments section in the draft NEPA document: Incredibly, the 4-page Draft Proposed Action for the Sxwuytn 'Trail' - Kaniksu Connections Project mentions the word "trail" once. Here, see for yourself:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109638_FSPLT3_5229048.pdf

The 2-page Draft Purpose and Need for Action for the Sxwuytn 'Trail' - Kaniksu Connections Project does not contain the word "trail." Here, see for yourself:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/nfs/11558/www/nepa/109638_FSPLT3_5229052.pdf

Mister, you should be jailed for backhanding the people who trust you and provide the tax dollars for your salary. Your actions are unprecedented. Never before have I seen such a conscious effort to deceive the public. Perhaps I'm more disappointed with your obedient, clueless IDT members who choose to join you in your pathetic treachery.

Based on the size of your timber sale and the sensitivity of the land and streams that will be affected by the sale you will do an EIS. I will expect the name of the EIS that analyzes your proposed action will not include the word "trail."

If you continue to pass this massive timber sale off as a trail project then start briefing your OGC attorneys.

Who are you people?

Sincerely,

Dick Artley USFS-forester/logging engineer retired Duties--forest planner, NEPA legal compliance reviewer, forest NEPA coordinator, and forest appeals/litigation coordinator on the NezPerce NF)

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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead