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Comments: First, I want to suggest that the comment period for the Flat Country EIS should be extended an additional month, at least. Many or most of the units in this project are inaccessible due to snow and downed trees across roads so it is impossible to visit and properly evaluate the proposal for a unit.

On Friday, February 28, I visited units 360, 460, and 1980. These units are critical for providing and protecting the Chinook Salmon habitat in Scott Creek.

Units 360 and 460 are fairly young and dense units that could benefit from light thinning, but due to their proximity to Scott Creek (360 is adjacent to it and 460 is essentially the headwaters of it) it is imperative that ground cover be disturbed as little as possible and that proper riparian buffers are maintained to keep the Creek cool. Figure 26 in the EIS shows riparian buffers along the several streams running steaply downhill through Unit 360, but it does not show a riparian buffer along Scott Creek itself. I assume this is an oversight in drafting the map. Scott Creek must be properly buffered.

Unit 1980 is a piece of forest with great wilderness and habitat potential. There is some specias variability, there are multiple layers of canopy with some significant openings, and the forest floor has significant downed loggs and woody matter but not much ladder fuel. Mild thinning and a few additional openings should be the most that is done to this unit and I urge you to select option three and log no trees older than 80 years in this unit.

In the short amount of time I was able to spend in 1980, due to the difficulty in getting there in the snow, I came upon deer, bear, and hare tracks in the snow.

Thank you for your consideration.

-Dave Barta