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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Michele Jones

Central Coast Range Ranger District

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Feedback on Proposed Deadwood Creek Restoration Project

Feb. 25, 2020

Hello Michelle,

We are located 9.5 miles up Deadwood Creek Rd. Forest Service land adjoins our property on the north and west sides. We have lived in this valley for 37 years.

As a traditional herbalist, I have been trained and apply observation of variations in seasons and conditions as applicable to plant communities. My mentors have been traditional American Native healers.

In addition, I am schooled in the scientific method, having earned a doctorate in Human Communication.

We have some concerns about the proposed project that I will note below.

1. As we were only able to walk one of the areas of concern, the hydrologists (3 lovely young women), were going to schedule another appointment with me. This never happened. I would like this to happen.
2. A botanist was going to schedule an appointment with me. After I tried to make an appointment, no return call and no appointment. I would like this to happen. There are some plants of concern.
3. These in-person visits are extremely important to protect domestic water supply and seepage to our orchard as well as identifying sensitive plants.
4. Someone mentioned re-opening a logging road on a steep hillside (across from Buck Creek) that is very close to a sensitive plant community and spring. I am hoping that this is already off the table.
5. We are totally against any type of herbicide applications in our watershed and particularly anywhere (from the road to the top of the hill) in our home area drainage.
6. The proposed project includes reducing the canopy by 60%. My Traditional Native American teachers told me to never harvest more than 30% of anything, and as little as 10% for slower growing plants. I have direct experience with this protocol as I serve a Native Community by harvesting medicinal plants. Following this protocol supports sustainability.
7. We are also concerned about our watershed becoming dryer. Even small 1 acre logging has significantly led to dryer and warmer summer conditions. Please consider this for the sake of the fish and fire danger.
8. In addition, we are concerned by any logging activity on steep hillsides as the runoff leads to more silt in the springs and creeks and adds to the danger of slides, posing danger to people and blocking road access.

Thank you for soliciting feedback and attending to the needs of our community. This is our home.

I (we) would be happy to elaborate for any questions of clarification.

Working with the map is difficult for me. While the plan(s) offer alternatives to support (or not), deciphering the language and the lack of specificity for a particular area has me concerned and anxious.

As a result I have the following questions to ask when you talk with me by phone: (we can make an appointment by email, generally afternoons work)

1. Is our Domestic Spring protected to the top of the draw?
2. Is the seepage from spring to our orchard protected?
3. Is the Oregon Grape (*Berberis nervosa*) patch below on the side hill of the old logging road protected?
4. Are there any plans to use herbicides in either of these two draws and anywhere above our property?
5. [hellip]and any clarification to above listed concerns.

Sincerely,

Mara Levin (and Calvin Parker)