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Organization:

Title:

Comments: March 10, 2020

Dear Michele Jones, Central Coast District Ranger,

I am responding to your recent request for public comment concerning the Deadwood Creek Restoration Project.

I have lived along Deadwood Creek for the last fifteen years. I have a degree in Biological Science from the University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV).

My major focus was on botany and environmental science. I graduated in the early 1970's. I grew up close to Puget Sound , and was a member of The Audubon Society at the age of eight.

Yes, the Deadwood and Lake Creek watersheds need restoration, but I am concerned that the restoration work as proposed, might be too heavy handed. By this I mean that the taking of the 106 million board feet of timber may in itself cause damage to the rain forest and its associated species.

When we met at the Deadwood Community Center in early May, 2019, I asked if the project would be "carbon neutral". Upon reading about the project the information notes that road building, gravel trucks, thousands of log truck trips to mills, loaders, helicopters and other assorted vehicles and machines, seems to me a lot of CO2 release. Soil disruption also can release CO2 and give noxious weeds a place thrive. Would this project have unintended consequences as have other well meaning projects of the past?

I would submit that forests are more complex and more "intelligent" than we humans can understand.

Most logging operations take place when bird populations migrate to these woods to mate and reproduce. Bird populations are declining drastically globally.

We must try to help Spotted Owls and Marbled Murrelets, but we must also consider about all the other migratory birds that are not permanent residents in our forests.

It is important to restructure aquatic habitats for salmon spawning and increase dissolved oxygen in our creeks. But, I think we should use methods that are scaled to do as little collateral damage as possible.

I would also like to speak to the issue of socioeconomic impacts on the local community. There is much poverty along the highway 36 corridor. By hiring only "big name" logging companies to do the restoration project does not help support the local people. The heavy equipment and log trucks used by large scale companies exports wealth out of the communities along with the logs. Thousands of log truck trips beginning pre-dawn, racing back and forth, diesel fumes, jake brakes and noise creates more dangerous driving conditions for community members. This equation also impacts the environment, all species, nature included. Deadwood Creek road is narrow and only one lane and gravel in some areas, we local folks will have our lives disrupted and impacted in the process.

To help restore damage that was done in previous decades where economics was considered more important than the environment, please consider doing just what is "necessary" for the forest. In these new times of the Anthropocene, our public forests are worth so much more than timber. Our trees may save us.

Sincerely,

Greg Kennedy