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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Congratulation Baker Ranger District. You are one of the few that have come out of decades of analysis paralysis with a very worthy plan. This plan will help in your goal of future desired conditions of a mature healthy forest.

It is too bad you have not done your home work on the Mountain Hemlock zone, The answers are simple and should have been found by you long ago. This would help in your quest for the ideal forest conditions. One of your past forest supervisors really hurt you on this.

The roll of the timber industry is only as a tool for your desired outcome. The economic benefits to the industry are minimal. I hope that you consult a practicing forest engineer during layout. The problem with most F.S. sales today is being too complicated and using too many different harvest systems to be practical. Since the forest plan the industry has lost much of its infrastructure making plans like yours difficult to execute.

Your plan will significantly improve the functionality of the watershed creating a better flow of water during the dry months of the year. Also your plan will help keep and diversify the flora and fauna. The old growth forests in this area are over 50% decayed and decaying, these trees contribute more carbon dioxide than they sequester. By thinning out the 2nd growth plantations these trees will become thrifty and will be the carbon dioxide gleaners in the future. It is exciting to see the roads in this area being upgraded so they can be used by forest visitors. We have been lucky in this area that we have had an active group of volunteers to keep some of our roads passable, otherwise the recreating public could not use their national forest.

It is too bad that misleading propaganda from Urban elite organizations such as the North Cascade Conservation (preservation) Council has tainted so many of your responses. These responses are a glaring example of the ignorance of these groups and is harmful to the well being of our National Forests.

It is very hard for the public to find out what is going on on our National Forests giving a lopsided advantage to groups like NCCC. I hope you will diversify your contact list in the future to include a better cross section of the Forest using public.

Thank You for a well thought out plan and a chance to respond to it. Be looking forward to your progress in the future.

Respectfully,

Dick Whitmore