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Title:

Comments: Dear Supervisor Steele and Mr. Krueger;

Please consider extending the Mid-Swan DEIS public review and comment period for an additional 45 days. Because of COVID-19, people's time is limited. For example, many people have children attending school online that requires parental supervision.

The Mid-Swan DEIS is very long and requires people to essentially learn a whole new "condition-based management" language.

The DEIS and its Appendices require the reader to become extensively knowledgeable about the new revised Forest Plan which has new rules that the Flathead NF. is required to follow.

The DEIS and its Appendices do not include essential supportive documents, such as "The Assessment," nor are those documents or an index to Project File documents listed on the Mid-Swan Project web page. This requires readers to submit FOIA requests to the Flathead National Forest for these documents, which burns substantial holes in the 45-day DEIS comment period since the Flathead takes the full 20 working days to respond.

The Flathead NF continues to conduct open houses and add the resulting materials, as well as interactive maps, to the Mid-Swan Project web page

(<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/flathead/landmanagement/projects/?cid=fseprd787388&width=full>  
<<https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fs.usda.gov%2Fdetailfull%2Fflathead%2Flandmanagement%2Fprojects%2F%3Fcid%3Dfseprd787388%26width%3Dfull&data=02%7C01%7C%7C5e13dc158f774ac8d2b508d858d82005%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cfa0d4697%7C0%7C0%7C637357032553096922&sdata=Qb35ncolKldhpP7QBKfcUkrcYh2NDjJ7yILZ2VWDI7Y%3D&reserved=0>> ).

While those additional materials may prove useful, they nonetheless require additional time and effort to review and utilize.

The Mid-Swan Project Area is 174,205 acres in size and proposes land- and vegetation-disturbing management activities spanning at least 15 years on 68% of those acres.

The Mid-Swan Project stands to have substantial effects on a host of at-risk species, including threatened grizzly bear, lynx, bull trout as well as lynx and bull trout critical habitat and reportedly requires amendments to the Forest Plan due to excessive impacts.

The initial 45 days is wholly inadequate for the public to read, research and provide informed public comment on the DEIS, proposed amendments to the Forest Plan, and management activities spanning decades on this huge chunk of landscape.

Please add 45 days to the current 45-day comment period to help facilitate informed public involvement and better responses to your request for public feedback.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely yours,