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Title:

Comments: Our comments on Mid-Swan Landscape DEIS

Please consider this message as our comment on the draft EIS for the Mid-Swan Landscape project. We are opposed to the project as outlined in the DEIS for these reasons.

1. No plan should be adopted that further fragments the forest habitat in the Swan Valley. The Forest Service should be working to close and rehab obsolete roads, creating larger blocks of intact habitat. This DEIS goes in the wrong direction, calling for more than 40 miles of new roads, added to the existing 567 miles of FS roads, not to mention state and private roads. Every mile of road creates adverse impacts against grizzly bear, bull trout, and other fish and wildlife species.
2. The DEIS should have analyzed an alternative that would remove the logging roads and restore historic conditions for wildlife habitat. This missing alternative should be discussed in a DEIS Supplement.
3. Even the "no new road" alternative in this DEIS calls for building more roads, and it keeps all but 40 miles of the existing road system. This renders the DEIS inadequate in that it does not present a reasonable range of alternatives as required by NEPA.
4. The locations of the timber sales is not disclosed, so the public is unable to look at the impacts of those sales against wildlife and fish habitat in specific locations.
5. The DEIS contemplates logging in areas recommended for designation as wilderness. We believe such areas should be absolutely off-limits for logging projects. Their wilderness values have been recognized, and those values would be destroyed by logging.

Please revoke this draft EIS and write a new one that provides protection for the wildlife and fish habitat and wilderness values of the Swan. Thank you for considering our comments.

Sincerely,