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Organization:

Title:

Comments: mid swan comments...

I prefer the Alternative A no action.

My reasoning:

New roads should not be built, and existing roads not being utilized should be decommissioned. The FS has failed in many cases to maintain the existing road base without resource impacts, and will not have the future budget to maintain new roads, and associated environmental damages they would cause. Enough road access already exists in the project area to extract timber, carry out prescribed fire and wild land fire management, and maintain the management of areas that have already been harvested. No new areas should be accessed for timber harvest. There are already enough areas in rotational growth, to be harvested as it matures. The Mission Mountains Wilderness needs sufficient buffers to maintain wild character, and protect watersheds draining from it. Prescribed fire, and a more expanded let burn policy can be achieved, without being part of a mega-project like this one. Also, the wildlife and fisheries habitat improvements can be implemented, without being part of a project of this magnitude. Past, poorly managed logging projects, have also impacted fisheries and wildlife corridors. Smaller, more well defined and goal oriented projects should be implemented, on a case by case basis to alleviate past resource impacts.

Research needed:

All future proposed projects should analyze and address the use of private land development adjacent to FS lands. The management of FS lands should be accountable, to protect adjacent private lands and associated development. Home site development and associated increases in human density and land use in the project area (commercial and private river rafting and log jam cutting, hunting, fishing, livestock grazing impacts, etc) adjacent to FS lands, have impacted wildlife and fisheries, and created fire safety issues. Management decisions need to be based on a growing population of permanent residents and visitors. There seems to be a disagreement between the FS and Mt Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP), over the size of Beaver populations, and how to improve stream and wetland habitats. FWP continues to allow Beaver trapping, while the FS indicates the need for more Beaver to enhance fisheries and wildlife habitat. Log jams supported by Beaver are a key to improving fisheries and wildlife habitat along the Swan River and associated tributaries. A Beaver population study should be completed. FWP should stop Beaver trapping prior to the completion of the study, and adjust the harvest based on the out come of the study. Trapping could still be utilized to remove problem Beaver on a site specific basis.

Thanks,

Brent Morrow, MS, MPA