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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mid-Swan Project

My name is Megan Coleman, I've been recreating in Jewel Basin, the Crown of the Continent, and the Swan Mountains my entire life. We backcountry ski, hike, fish and boat in this most beautiful zone. My great-grandfather used to have Jeanette Rankin to our Swan Lake Cabin over the holidays when he wasn't working for Montana government out of Deer Lodge, MT.

I was so disappointed to hear of and read this proposal in the Flathead National Forest for the purpose of infrastructure and logging --- this looks to be the wrong choice for those lands for several reasons. Please manage our public lands responsibly, they are owned by the American people, your organization is entrusted to do what is right and strike a balance between industry and preservation/conservation. This ecosystem doesn't need to be fractured anymore than it already has in the past. To restore this landscape, how about we remove those logging roads, not the trees that keep our air clean. We will see the impacts of climate change and regret these moves very quickly.

1. Fragmenting and breaking up that habitat which has already undergone fragmentation will endanger and risk the livelihood of different species in that realm: Lynx, Grizzly Bear, Bull Trout, and other wildlife. We do NOT need to be this reckless with our lands, this sounds to me like a lack of regulation, we need to maintain and protect our wilderness areas not just succumb to industry because of a few jobs now. We need clean air and water for the fish populations in this area, your proposed landscape restoration does not support that ideal. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) shows those road templates on the landscape will harm Grizzly Bear. What could be more precious?

2. No tax dollars spent on something that violates NEPA. Don't build infrastructure that will last forever that you are only using for a short-term project like this that has long term consequences on the health of our wildlife and forest, isn't that common sense? Is this going to be yet another abandoned road network on Public Lands?

3. Restoring this landscape to historic conditions would remove all of the logging roads, but the DEIS does not analyze such an alternative at all, not even as a point of comparison. Nor does the DEIS look at reducing the road network to levels where the research shows they no longer significantly harm threatened grizzly bears, as was required under the former Forest Plan Amendment 19. Those thresholds still apply to effect analyses like the DEIS!

4. Do the right thing.

Thank you for your time.