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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Mid-Swan Project

Hello Forest Service - I'm writing to object to your proposed Mid-Swan Project, which would chop the beautiful Swan Valley into smaller pieces than it already has, and annihilate wildlife habitat.

I find it ironic that you refer to it as a "landscape restoration" project when it would actually destroy the forest habitat by further fragmenting 272 square miles of the Swan Valley. This fragmentation causes total destruction of wildlife habitat. In particular, the studies show that many areas of the Swan are habitat to the threatened Canada Lynx. We already know how important connectivity is to the endangered Grizzly Bear. We also know the negative effects of logging roads, which destroy the clean, cold water needed for bull trout. So, how could you not conclude that this plan will have disastrous results for the wildlife of the Swan Valley? That alone is reason enough to stop this plan. But, add to that, the impact on people who have their recreation and hunting areas destroyed, and have to look at this god-awful destruction for the rest of their lives. This is landscape destruction, not restoration.

The proposed building of additional roads is unbelievable. Really? The Swan Valley is already shredded with roads. You should be making plans to remove some roads there in order to reduce the risk of wildfire. Looking at the past several years as an example, we could conclude that most of the wildfires are caused by people, so why would you create more roads into the forest for people to go and be irresponsible and cause fires.

Decommissioning roads would not only be beneficial to wildlife habitat, but would reduce the risk of wildfires.

This plan also includes the unbelievable strategy of not really telling people where and when any of the logging will be done. You plan to cut enough trees to fill 60,000 logging trucks, but you just want an open ticket to do this logging where you want and when you want, and the public opinion be damned. You require comments now for something with no details. That's not just unreasonable and unethical, but it circumvents the processes set up to allow the public an opportunity to provide feedback about the plans for their public lands. This is a violation of the National Environmental Policy Act. These lands belong to the public, not the Forest Service.

The whole project just stinks. It's a huge, unconscionable, destructive, and illegal plan to support the logging industry under the guise of "managing the forests", and even goes so far as to intrude on areas recommended for Wilderness. This plan should be abandoned. And, if it isn't, I hope you get sued and made to look like fools in the public arena, like happened in Alaska.