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Comments: Mid-Swan Project Comment

Dear Forest Service

Please accept these comments on the Mid-Swan Landscape Restoration and Wildland Urban Interface Project.

I take issue with the vagueness of the proposed project. Where exactly will the 60,000 log truck loads come from we do not know, but we certainly should and have a chance to comment on it. Once approved we have no additional public comment period on what happens to our public lands?!

The Wilderness areas burns, tree planting and use of helicopters is unacceptable. The Forest Service has a responsibility to protect the wild character of the Mission Mountains Wilderness. The proposal violates the fundamental values of Wilderness and should be rejected.

Prescribed fire would interfere with natural processes in the Mission Mountains Wilderness. Let natural burns put patch work back on the land scape. Planting white bark pine will manipulate the wild character of the Mission Mountains Wilderness. Do not plant greenhouse raised white bark pines in the wilderness. Helicopter use is incompatible with Wilderness, harasses wildlife, and destroys the experience for Wilderness visitors. Do not cut and replace the cedars at piper creek trailhead with a more merchantable timber.

My next area of concern is the proposed new roads, this portion of the plan should be completely scrapped. There are already far too many roads in the Swan. They degrade water quality, which bull trout depend on. Instead the plan should focus on old road rehabilitation. We have many threatened species who call this area home and the USFS has a responsibility to consider their existence and well being. And new road building will significantly impact them, such as grizzly bear, and lynx. I also wonder why beaver will be introduced, yet no moratorium be placed by MDFWP?

I am in support of thinning and prescribed burning in the WUI areas. That is where the focus of tree removal should be, the lower elevations where the community would benefit from the tree removal. The roads already exist and the USFS would possibly save money in the long run with fire fighting costs.

Thank you for considering my comments.