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Organization:

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Comments: Mid-Swan Project

To: Joe Krueger, Mid-Swan Project Team Lead,

In spite of the comments sent concerning previous versions of this project plan there seem to be more of the same issues with this version of the project plan.

1. This area has too many roads already. The plan to add miles and miles of roads will continue to add to sediment load in creeks and rivers and create crossings that often lead to fish migration. Sediment from road building and timber harvests has been a major contributor to reduced invertebrate life in watersheds throughout the Northwest and Rockies. We are losing the strongholds of native fish. Also fish use all parts of their environment and shouldn't have to deal with restricted access from faulty stream crossings and dysfunctional culverts.
2. The riparian harvesting approach is too aggressive. Suggested "restoration" around riparian areas for fire resilience will not give endangered species, such as the Bull Trout, or threatened species like the West Slope Cutthroat, the cold, clean water they need to thrive and avoid predators. Carnivores including from Lynx to Grizzly Bears need the protected riparian areas for travel and diet.
3. No watershed with Wild and Scenic features should have aggressive riparian harvest near the stream or river.
4. In general I support the comments of Luke Lamar, especially concerning a plan of such scale being approved as a single project and creating such a long project cycle. The changing climate and severity of climate behavior has demonstrated that planning needs to be more adaptable. Appropriateness of action is more important than economy of planning.
5. This plan is likely be tied up in the courts due to its size and highly likely negative impact on vital wildlife of the Swan Valley.

Respectfully submitted,