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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: USFS Methow Ranger District, Twisp River Restoration Project Team 12/1/2020

The Twisp River drainage is a very special place that needs protection, restoration and most of all respect. I hope the best for this project and it's intended outcome. I hope that good decisions are made to protect the old trees, the intact specialized habitats and the wilderness feel that this valley embodies. This isn't just some cut over and left for dead mountain valley. This is a very precious piece of Cascade ecosystem that should be treated with the utmost care.

-I agree that past forestry treatments in the Twisp River Valley have left a situation that needs restoration.

-I agree that we need to carefully thin the forests, burn the understory and encourage the restoration of salmon and beaver to help bring the ecosystem back into a better balance.

However, there are a few points that I would like you to take into consideration.

- The size, 77,000 acres is a huge amount of land. The project is broken into 5 phases. I would like you to issue separate decisions for each of the five phases and allow for public review and comment at each phase and decision point. There needs to be a way to make corrections and change course as new information comes to light as the project moves forward. The public should be able to comment on these changes.

- There needs to be a clear monitoring and tracking program to develop strategies to adapt the project over time so that we use the best science possible.

- As stated in the existing restoration strategy, we must avoid logging trees over 20" in diameter. Large trees are deficient in the valley and they should be left for habitat.

- The project should take into account the large areas in special old growth reserves, areas with roadless status and/or with the potential for wilderness designation.

- Do not place large fuel breaks in old growth reserves

- Focus thinning on small trees below the roadless areas

- Do not place any roads in current roadless areas

- Treatments in protected areas should only permit the thinning of small diameter trees and should take great care to avoid ground disturbance

- Salvage logging should not be a part of this project. This is especially true in the Roadless Areas.

- Preservation of the Twisp River and it's high water quality, endangered fish species and regenerating ecosystems (beaver, wolf, moose) should take the utmost precedence in this project.

- The use of beaver transplants, beaver dam analogs and anything that helps to bring back the population of beavers should take great priority. Beavers can do far more to restore the Twisp River than we can.

- There should not be ATV access granted to the Twisp River as a part of this "Restoration" Project. This project is not the appropriate place to discuss giving ATV access. That would fall into the Travel Management Plan and should only be considered when that plan is under review.

- Restoration and correction of trails should be included in this plan. Many trails will be affected by the forestry work and will need rebuilding after. This work should be done with the best sustainable trail building practices.

Thank you for your consideration,
Anaka Mines
Resident, Twisp River