

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/18/2020 6:35:01 PM

First name: Sean

Last name: Downes

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom it may concern,

This is in regards to the Twisp River restoration project, number 56554.

First, thank you so much for working towards protecting this river's watershed that drains into our greater Methow area. As a full-time resident of the Methow Valley, I frequent the areas represented by this project. In the summer I'm literally there for days on end! It's truly a special place for me and my community. Being able to access Stehekin on foot, or even run back to Copper Pass from Road's end. I'm always astonished at despite how far from other areas, the twisp river is truly connected to the north cascades, the sawtooth range and the rest of the rest of our region.

I have a few concerns about the proposed project as it currently stands.

1. "older" tree designation and trunk diameters: The apparent proposed changes to what qualifies as "older growth" or "fire resilient" trees is unacceptable as it currently stands. Why are we expanding upwards to 30"? Please maintain the older norms and practices this valley, particularly in the roadless areas.

2. riparian and "salvage" logging: These proposals stray from science, good management, and frankly, the community who lives here. Please keep the extraction limited - or eliminated - from these areas. Also, salvage logging is a relic of the past, uniformed forest policy and has no place in the maintenance of a restorative, health environment.

3. OHV/ATV development: As useful as motorized vehicles may be to some under abled members of our hunting community, the trails as they are proposed are excessive and conflict with those of us who wish to access the outdoors by human powered means. The roadways, paved or otherwise seem perfectly suited to their use at present. Perhaps we can limit their use to hunting seasons, in a permitted capacity? In any case, there is plenty of other areas in the methow that support ATV accessed hunting.

4. Upper Twisp River: please eliminate all extraction activities form the upper twisp river. The area is prime for recreation and is ecologically sound. Extraction from upriver is at odds with the restoration goal.

4. condition-based management : This part of the plan is unclear and need remediation. Can you please be specific about requirements around "condition-based management"? We'd also like to stay informed as to any official decision trees and condition monitoring associated to them. Given the size and duration of this project, it is imperative that limits be imposed on possible outcomes under any conditions. The relevant proposed actions to be made site specific, and subsequently should undergo an environmental impact statement so we full understand what the greater proposal's implications are. Extraction based equipment and traffic can represent significant disruption to recreation access, which can have major economic impacts to the Methow community, and the town of Twisp, specifically. Especially given the long timescale of this proposal.

4. Road's end: I noticed you folks had closed much of road's end parking and camping earlier this year. I think that makes sense. I'm happy that you folks are taking care to ensure and safe environment for our salmonid species to thrive.

In general, I'd strongly encourage you to reduce the scope of this project - particular the extraction - and work more closely with those of us in the Methow Valley in future management plans. Working in tandem with

organizations like North Central Washington Forest Collaborative is crucial to the successful rehabilitation of our shared lands.

Thank you so much for the work you're doing.