

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/18/2020 7:15:20 PM

First name: Kristina

Last name: Bartowitz

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest Supervisor Bail,

I'm writing to provide comments on the Twisp Restoration Project environmental analysis #56554.

The Twisp River is a unique and special place. My home in Twisp overlooks the Twisp River Valley merging into the city of Twisp. I spend summers hiking and running the trails and winters skiing up the Twisp River Drainage. I am exceptionally worried about the massive traffic and work increases up the Twisp River, and what that means for both recreation opportunities and the safety of residents and recreationalists.

I strongly oppose plans to cut large (>20" diameter) fire resilient trees and trees over 10" in roadless areas, bulldozing trees in old-growth areas, salvage logging in Reserves and roadless areas, Riparian logging especially along the valley bottom, excessive shaded fuelbreaks, new ATV routes, and logging in the ecologically functional Upper Twisp sub-watershed, including quality spotted owl habitat.

Please remove these elements from the Twisp Forest Restoration Project; they are not supported by either science or the local community. Protect all old trees (>150 years old) regardless of size and species. Research has shown that large-scale thinning may actually reduce the resilience of western forests due to increased temperatures and reduced water availability to trees.

Given the Project's massive scale, scope and complexity, I request you provide appropriate limits and monitoring where "condition-based management" is proposed, and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement to assess whether an ecological need exists for careful restoration actions in roadless areas, Reserves, and elsewhere.

Please show how the proposed actions adhere to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's restoration strategy, and exactly where logging and other activities will be located and why. Environmental review must address site-specific impacts. Fire threats from extensive logging slash will be addressed in the analysis as well as impacts to outdoor recreation interests and neighboring communities and residents from logging-related traffic and other disruptions over the next 30 years. In addition, please show that this large-scale project will lead to resilience.

Generally I request that you work with the North Central Washington Forest Collaborative and Methow Valley community to reduce the Project's scope, scale, and negative environmental impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Twisp Forest Restoration Project.