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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello,

I am writing re: the proposed forest restoration project in the Twisp River drainage. I am in full support of restoration projects, and it is clear that the Twisp River drainage is in need of attention. My family has property up the Twisp River which is recovering from the 2015 burn. I can fully appreciate the push to carefully manage this overgrown forest. However, the proposal that has been put forward is unreasonably large in scale for the amount of public communication and opportunities for engagement the Forest Service has provided, and there are a number of plans included which concern me. Primarily, they include plans to log large trees (up to 30 inches), salvage log, and increase ATV access. First, the older growth trees between 20-30 inches which this proposal would allow to be cut are extremely valuable to the health of the forest, and departing from the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest recommendations without explanation is nonsensical. Next, salvage logging is extremely harmful to delicate recovering underbrush and seems to only serve commercial interests. Finally, ATV access has a long documented history of ecological damage in the Methow Valley. Increasing that access warrants further examination and planning. All three of these plans are incompatible with the Forest Service's documented best practices and the proposal's stated goals of forest restoration. I strongly urge the Forest Service to closely examine these plans and allow for more public engagement in this project. Thank you.