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Title:

Comments: Twisp Restoration Project

Thanks for the opportunity to submit my input on this important project.

I've lived and worked in this magnificent drainage for over 40 years in a place I call home. I'll be sharing an overview perspective and then specific items.

The proposed TRP is very ambitious and a multiyear project. The project has so many components that it concerns me that there is a need for separate projects. The project includes logging in late successional reserves which includes trees that are considered old growth, mechanical thinning in inventoried roadless areas, burning in roadless areas, WUI, an new ATV trail, and fisheries enhancement projects.

Without significant increases in funding for the Forest Service is the proposal achievable?

The project has not adequately addressed the proposed activities in regards to improving forest management to lessen its contribution to climate change.

The vast majority of actively publishing climate scientists - 97 percent - agree that humans are causing global warming and climate change.

The new administration of President elect Biden has stated that US forests sequester 11-15% of annual US fossil fuel emissions. Through actions in both sectors, agriculture and forestry can provide 10-20% of the additional sequestration and emissions reductions needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.

1 NASA Global climate change

2 Climate 21 project USDA

FSM 5140.3 - Policy: Plan and implement a hazardous fuels management and prescribed fire program applying:

? Consideration of greenhouse gas emissions and effects on carbon sequestration.

The TRP document is lacking in specifics on how it will reduce the effects of climate change by the proposal actions. What improvements can be made to burning and other fuels treatments to increase carbon sequestration? ie burning of stumps. Climate change has accelerated our need for action.

Climate Change, Greenhouse Gases and Carbon Sequestration section of the EA

From the EA; This scope and degree of change would be minor,

The TRP must implement refinements to current practices to lessen climate change

From the EA; In addition, the effect of the proposed action focuses on aboveground carbon stocks, which typically comprise a fraction of the total ecosystem carbon stocks in the proposed managed area

Climate change is about all of the fractions combined that accelerate the climate crisis. Let no fractions go uncouncted in the total assessment of this project.

From the EA; Because local GHGs emissions mix readily into the global pool of GHGs, it is difficult and highly uncertain to ascertain the indirect effects of emissions from single or multiple projects of this size on global climate.

Therefore, at the global and national scales, this proposed action's direct and indirect contribution to GHGs and climate change would be negligible

What proposed actions could be modified over the next decade, to reduce emissions from the cumulative actions in this and similar projects?

This proposed project needs to address what can be done, so when the person with the drip torch ignites the fuels there are optimum conditions to minimize carbon release.

From the EA; Lastly, carbon emissions during the implementation of the proposed action would have only a momentary influence on atmospheric carbon concentrations,

The Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) summarized the contributions of global human activity sectors to climate change (IPCC 2014). From 2000 to 2009, forestry and other land uses contributed just 12 percent of the human-caused global CO2 emissions¹.

The TRP project should seek to reduce its contribution to human-caused global CO2 emissions.

Beyond the scope of this proposal you say. We have an obligation to the next generations to start making significant improvements in how the public land is managed.

Climate change is one of the most important issues that need to be addressed

Today's forest management is more of a gamble than a scientific debate. By following 'no-regret' strategies, we can buy time while we learn more. The future of the world's forest should not depend on tossing a coin.

Will the public have additional opportunities for input over the 10 year plus projected time frame?

The most carbon-efficient uses of wood should be encouraged and required for timber sales, and firewood.

Climate change is one of the drivers for fires in OUR forests. How will the proposed treatments benefit managing OUR forests for increased carbon sequestration to reduce the effect of climate change?

Appropriate fuel loadings needs to be changed to maximizing carbon sequestering.

The proposed fuels treatments in other areas should wait until the wildland urban interface WUI projects are completed.

I question the FS ability to secure funding for fuels treatment and mechanical vegetation actions in identified roadless areas

How many past timber sales in the project area? What timber sales have already taken place in the late successional reserves where there are new proposed treatments?

I think it would be a helpful perspective to have a map that shows past timber sales, wildfires, prescribed fire in the project area where activities are proposed.

From the EA Sawtooth Inventoried Roadless Area are under consideration for these thinning treatments to help address Needs #2, 3, and 5. On slopes up to 35%, thinning could include ground-based mechanical systems. On slopes between 35-80%, thinning could include cable or tethered logging systems.

Thinning on slopes 35-80% in an inventoried roadless area, I question if that will pencil out economically. What is the intent? Eliminating possible additions to the adjacent Lake Chelan Sawtooth Wilderness area.

Proposed ATV trail is of concern for impacts with T&E species using the area. However, finer-scale analysis showed that all species avoided humans on trails, with avoidance strongest for mountain biking and motorized vehicles.

From EA Constructing engineered log jams to create more complex aquatic habitat and improve hydrologic function. Wood may need to be brought in from off-site where existing materials are limited.

The Twisp River that is in the National Forest appears to have sufficient log jams and more will be created naturally after the crescent fire. The historic popular flats campground is being adversely affected by log jams and that needs to be addressed.

Fuelwood Gathering could be limited to within 200 ft of roads not skid trails.

I concur with the fuel reduction projects for McClure communication site.

3 Nature 506

4 Relative effects of recreational activities on a temperate terrestrial wildlife assemblage

All we are saying is give the earth and the children a chance.

Sincerely

Richard Murray

Twisp River