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Comments: James Correll

1/16/2021

Rodney Smoldon, Forest Supervisor/Objection Reviewing Officer
Colville National Forest
765 South Main
Colville, WA 99114

Subject: Sxwuytn-Kaniksu Connections 'Trail' Project/ Environmental Assessment
Attention: Objections

I am a private citizen and a Bead Lake property owner. I am also a member of the Bead Lake Clean Water Association. In that capacity, I helped to prepare the Integrated Aquatic Vegetation Management Plan (IAVMP) addressing how best to manage the recently detected infestation of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) in the lake. If left unimpeded, EWM has the potential to cause extreme damage to the lake and all of its beneficial users.

Bead Lake is a remarkably pure body of water. Located within steep timbered terrain, the lake has only one small year around inflow stream and no surface water discharge. Several decades of water quality analyses have determined the lake to be oligotrophic. It contains very low concentrations of organic nutrients (nitrates & phosphates) which, when present, tend to generate more dense aquatic plant concentrations that negatively impact the native wildlife living in and adjacent to the lake.

The oligotrophic water quality helps to constrain the expansion of the milfoil in the lake. Maintaining that water quality is therefore critically important. That is an issue of concern relating to the Sxwuytn-Kaniksu Connections 'Trail' Project. The proposed action plan includes "even-year commercial" timber harvesting throughout most of the Bead Lake basin. Does "even-year commercial" timber harvesting mean clear cutting? If so, clear cutting of the steep terrain surrounding all of the northerly and easterly sides of the lake would result in a dramatic increase in surface water runoff and erosion transporting large concentrations of organic nutrients into the lake. The result would be catastrophic.

I certainly appreciate the importance of reducing timber density on the hills and ridges surrounding the lake as a means of disease prevention and wildfire control. What other selective techniques could be employed to meet this objective while concurrently preventing organically contaminated surface water from entering the lake? I look forward to receiving your response.

Sincerely,

James Correll

cc:

Eileen Nave, Lori Guerrero, Dan Muhm, Ron Stipes