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Title:

Comments: West Fork Ranger District

Below are comments related to the Mud Creek Project.

When initially informed of the Mud Creek Project it seemed to fill a legitimate need within the designated area adjacent the Nez Perce road. How is it that the project has expanded to include huge areas adjacent to the West Fork Road? It seemed the decision to expand the impacted area was an arbitrary decision "not authorized under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act". It is also subject to the "project-level predecisional administrative review process (36 CFR 218, Subparts A&B)".

Come on, this is vague gobbledygook.

Written comments on a project that is so poorly defined can only be general in nature, not specific.

I would like to have the opportunity to evaluate and comment on all plans to "design a transportation system" in the West Fork. I would like to be able to evaluate "the condition based implementation approach".

Commercial harvest of up to 14,000 acres of timber and also "recreation access" are concerns. "Creation of road loop trails, building of short connector trails", the where and how, is also a concern.

I noticed there was no mention of the creation and preservation of areas exclusive of off road vehicles; areas designated for hiking and biking and all non motorized activity.

Does the project pander to commercial and motorized interests?

Why was there no mention of oversight of all projects, to see that they are completed to the highest of standards. The Forest Service has succeeded aesthetically in fuel reduction goals in some areas, and failed disastrously in others.

Consistency for achievement of the highest aesthetic quality outcomes, in both fuel reduction and logging, is possible, and of paramount importance. I am an old timer. I don't have 20 or 30 years to wait for a damaged forest to heal. Don't allow our forests to be gutted and trashed. Here is hoping for an aesthetically pleasing outcome, as well as a safer forest, are the end results of all activities.

Thank You

Rodger Miller