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Comments: Protect Old Growth Trees, Elk and Bull Trout! Letter ID 55744 - 3841 - 73

I am writing these comments today with grave concerns regarding the size, lack of particulars, and vague time parameters of this project.

I find it generally unacceptable that the US Forest Service would think it feasible to make a plan now to implement over the next 20 years!

I am concerned there are at least 22 "regeneration clearcuts", openings of 40 to 200 acres proposed. This is much too far reaching, huge and vague.

I am concerned about the potential impacts of any more logging on these already over logged Public Lands on Bull Trout and Canada Lynx.

The three proposed ATV loops would invite more motorized traffic. This would further fragment and disrupt precious habitat for declining Elk numbers that are already Below Population Objectives.

Perhaps my most grave concern is regarding the proposal to further degrade our already minimal Old Growth Standards on the forest. These old growth trees are the most likely trees to live through a fire. What little old growth is left on the forest is best Left Alive. Live old-growth trees will improve landscape resilience to disturbances such as insects, diseases and Fire.

I have lived adjacent to various parts of the Bitterroot National Forest since 1980, I love Every Single Old Growth Tree that is still standing. Speaking on their behalf, I say again: "What little Old Growth is Left on the Bitterroot National Forest is best Left Alive!"

Thanks for asking for comments and for listening. Luisita Loveridge