

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/7/2023 2:45:45 AM

First name: James

Last name: Varner

Organization: Rainshadow Running Club

Title: Owner

Comments: Thanks for taking public comments on this project. And thank you for taking proactive steps to protect our forests and communities from large and devastating forest fires. I also want to thank MVCC for their vital work in studying this proposal and educating the community on the many parts that are good and the many parts that need work. I sincerely hope you give serious consideration to all the of the recommendations and questions that they bring up in this process.

As a person who enjoys the trails in the Midnight Restoration Area for my own personal benefit and for my livelihood I hope that this plan takes into account all of the work done to build and maintain the trails in the area of this plan as well as the people, businesses and events that rely on them. Just as there are buffers implemented around creeks and rivers when clearcutting I hope the same can be done around trails so they're not obliterated and have to be rebuilt.

I also hope that those writing, implementing and monitoring this plan keep in mind the four needs this plan is meant to address which boil down to shaping the forest composition, structure and infrastructure so that the area is resilient to the effects of climate change, wildfires and other natural events so that the plants and animals (including people) that live in and around the restoration area can be safe and healthy. The scope of the work to be done in this restoration plan is not commercial. The work should be done to help the forest survive fires, bugs, drought. Therefore the largest trees, 20" and up, should be kept whenever possible and soil compaction through use of heavy machinery and new road building should be kept to a minimum. Also please reconsider the use of ridge top firebreaks and as well as the use of straight line, un-natural fire breaks. Please ensure the plan is adhered by those implementing it through strict monitoring. We know in the past those implementing these plans have over harvested and not strictly followed the rules which only has negative effects on the forest health and can counteract all the good this plan is supposed to convey up the forest and the community.

Thanks again for all of your work on this and for considering my comments