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First name: JoAnn
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Road system: I use many of the unmaintained roads for hiking, biking and skiing, especially those in the Little Bridge Creek drainage. Please leave at least a trail instead of completely obliterating the roads in the 4415030 and 4415015 network, in the central portion of the south project area, connecting Little Bridge Creek and Twisp River. Also, the new construction at the upper end of Little Bridge Creek should certainly be converted to a trail after the project is complete. This is already an informal trail used by hikers and hunters. As far as other roads to be closed, including 4415180, 4415175, and 4415060, I don't see the point. They are not eroding & contributing sediment to fish-bearing waters, so it seems unnecessary to go in and fix what isn't broken. While it looks good on paper to show that you are closing roads, it really is not improving the environment, just cutting people off from a spot to walk their dog or maybe hunt for deer or cut firewood.

Twisp River trail: It is odd that there is no mention of impacts to this trail and mitigation measures to protect it, as it runs through much of the project area. The trail is used extensively by horseback riders and mountain bikers. While a solid bridge was rebuilt over the Eagle Creek crossing after the fire, there is a need for a similar bridge over Scaffold Camp Creek. This crossing is dangerous throughout much of the year due steep banks and boulder substrate. Can we get a bridge built on this trail crossing as part of this project?

Thompson Ridge Trail: I also see no mention of this trail, or the others in the Chickadee network. I'm assuming these trails will be protected during harvest, but some assurance would be nice. Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance has put considerable effort into building & maintaining this network of trails, which are within areas proposed for a variety of thinning treatments.

Snowplowing: First off, please seriously consider the assumption that winter harvest will prevent soil compaction and displacement. This is true if conditions are just right (deep snowpack, cold temps), but when the weather warms up and operations are already underway, contractors are reluctant to cease operations and it can lead to a muddy mess, not only on the land being harvested but the haul road as well. I have lived and skied up Twisp River for nearly 30 years, and I know that we rarely get a winter where a good, cold low elevation snowpack lasts for very long. Even this past winter, the period was brief, and I often dealt with my snowmobile over heating due to the groomed trail softening during the day and refreezing overnight. And those south facing slopes on the north side of Road 4400 melt out rapidly! If you do go through with winter logging and snowplowing the road, will the public be able to drive up and access skiing as we currently do on the snowmobile routes? Please do not cut us off from this important winter recreation area! The Highway 20 corridor is overcrowded and Twisp River has a small but loyal group of winter recreationists that would be negatively impacted if you cut off our access.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Twisp River is a special place; please go lightly on the logging!