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Comments: I am firmly opposed to the goals and actions of Midnight Restoration Project. It is time for the Okanogan National Forest to manage the Twisp River Valley and surrounding landscape as an area of tremendous recreational value for the Methow Valley, Okanogan County, visitors, and people of Washington state rather than another landscape to log and destroy. The Twisp River Valley is a scenic splendor with many popular campgrounds, trails, and access points to nearby Wilderness and Roadless Areas. Thinning and active management under the guise of fire prevention is nothing more than a flimsy excuse to do more logging because fires are a normal and natural part of this arid landscape, and in fact the vast majority of people who live and recreate in the Methow Valley recognize the ecological and scenic benefits of fires, and they do NOT want to see these landscapes logged. If you are logging against the wishes of the local community then you are not working in the public interest. Another serious issue is that the Forest Service lacks the funds, staff, and willpower to supervise these timber sales. Trees are not marked so logging companies can cut whatever trees they want without supervision and with zero accountability and zero consequences. If the Forest Service was doing its job, and if the Forest Service cared about public lands, they would have prevented what happened on the Mission Project last summer and there would have been serious consequences. The people of the Methow Valley recognize the harm that the Forest Service is doing to our forests in the name of fire prevention and we desperately want to prevent this harm from spreading into a high value area like the Twisp River Valley.

Citizens of the Methow Valley recognize that the science on using logging to reduce fire risk is far from settled and we recognize that the Forest Service is selectively picking studies that support logging while ignoring the contrary evidence. We expect and demand a well-balanced approach because these decisions impact all our lives.

We ask that the Forest Service remove commercial incentives in this project because it conflicts with the need for science-based restoration. And at the same time there should be NO "Condition-Based Management" nor "Designation By Prescription," the prescriptions disclosed in the NEPA document should not be changed post-decision, and the trees to be removed must be marked, not selected by the loggers.

Fire-resistant trees, particularly ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir over 10" diameter, should not be removed except in carefully prescribed zones in the immediate vicinity of houses.

The people of the Methow Valley firmly insist that NO new logging roads be constructed and no old roads reopened, because we see all over the valley the evidence of old roads that have not healed and we recognize the devastating ecological impact that roads have on our landscape.

Absolutely no logging should occur in the Chelan-Sawtooth roadless area, nor in Late Successional Reserves as designated in the Northwest Forest Plan, under any circumstances.

The people of the Methow Valley recognize that there is no "true and accurate" historic condition for our forests, which means that it's a fallacy to manage our forests for an imagined historic condition. Thinning or cutting trees on the idea that you're creating healthier, historic stand types causes more ecological damage than good and we reject this argument.

The Forest Service must prepare a full Environmental Impact Statement, and include all publics in the process, giving no special access to information and influence to the Collaborative. This so-called Collaborative, and including the Methow Valley Citizens Council, does not ensure that the public is given a meaningful voice in these decisions, and we reject being excluded from the process.

Independent, and wide-ranging alternatives must be included in an EIS, and the cumulative Impacts of Midnight, the Twisp Restoration Project, and Mission must be analyzed because the cumulative impact of these projects together means that the long-term economic and scenic driver of our local community is being permanently impacted without our voices being heard.