Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/9/2023 5:32:47 PM
First name: Steve
Last name: Merrill
Organization:
Title:
Comments: USFS,

I am a resident of the Twisp River valley and have serious concerns about the Midnight Restoration project. Thank you for the opportunity to express them here.

The effectiveness of these types of operations in minimizing fire risk and developing healthy forests habitats is nowhere near as well proven as you would have us believe.

Much of the area covered by this project is quite remote with little or no risk to human structures and activities. Additionally, much has burned recently, meaning the risk has already been reduced or eliminated.

The most fire-resistant trees, and those most beneficial to developing and maintaining healthy habitats, are those most attractive to logging companies. Giving the loggers a large say in which trees can/should be taken is like appointing the fox to guard the henhouse.

The impact of heavy machinery used to construct roads and "thin" and move small trees and understory growth is detrimental to air quality, soil stability and wildlife habitat. It should not be allowed.

I agree with, second and support the comments posted by, among others, Jack McLeod, Isabelle Spohn and Richard Bailey, who are much better educated and experienced in these matters than I am. The Midnight Restoration Project needs to be cancelled, or at the least, redesigned with much more balanced input from all who would be impacted.

Sincerely,
Steve Merrill
Twisp River, WA