

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/9/2023 1:17:56 AM

First name: Margaret

Last name: Neuman

Organization: Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Title: Executive Director

Comments: We commend the Cle Elum RD for your work to address the critical issues of forest health and resiliency in the Upper Swauk watershed. Our staff participated in the Swauk Creek collaborative planning effort from 2008 - 2022, and we have sponsored multiple restoration projects in Swauk Creek on the National Forest in that time. The Cle Elum RD's last communication with Upper Swauk Restoration Project Collaborative partners was Nov. 1, 2022. In June 2023, we exchanged emails with District staff to provide background information on the Hurley Creek road realignment, which was included in assessment reports we sponsored in 2010. We received no further information about the project until October 31, 2023, when we were invited to participate in a one hour briefing on November 8, the day before the public comment period ends.

We ask that the Cle Elum RD reconvene the Upper Swauk Restoration Collaborative and work with the partners to ensure that the proposed project is truly collaborative in nature, sets the stage for landscape scale restoration, and leverages the knowledge and resources of the many organizations invested in the health of the watershed. This will require extending the public comment period to allow interested parties to review the project proposal and discuss elements with District staff.