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Comments: USFS,

Overall, the large scale magnitude of this project is not conducive to good ecosystem management. The project is an attempt to emphasize fuel reduction needs to justify a large amount of timber extraction, at the expense of building new roads, and impacting winter range and wildlife migration corridors. The project needs to be downsized, and further analyzed to provide support for endangered species, and winter range ungulate populations.

No new roads should be built for this project, as it adds to the road maintenance and mitigation workload, that is already not being fulfilled in the Swan Valley. Some of the efforts proposed for mitigation are good, and should be applied throughout the Swan Valley to improve fisheries, winter range, and reduce fuel loads. Fuels reduction efforts should be concentrated adjacent to existing development, and achieved by prescribed burning and stand thinning. The design of logging units and prescribed burn areas should be supportive of the east-west wildlife migration corridors, and should be shaped irregularly to promote edge effect habitat and aesthetic viewsheds. No old growth timber should be cut anywhere in the project area to achieve this, especially, culturally significant trees. Also more effort should be made to eliminate and stop the spread of noxious weeds. The grazing allotment should be eliminated as it adds to this problem. Also, barbed wire and fencing should be removed as it impacts wildlife and human travel.

Thank you,

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