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Comments: Upper Canyon updated comments

Ranger Swanson, the December 1, 2023 Friends and Neighbors of the Sweet Home Ranger District, letter gives the public the 4 purposes for the Upper Canyon timber sale. The first one is to "provide a sustainable supply of timber products."

Do you really expect the public to believe this? Please tell us the names of the local mills you are trying to support. Give us the volume under contract, how much they run through the mill on a daily basis, and the estimated loss of income to the ma and pa restaurants, motels and sporting goods stores that loose business because the public does not want to recreate near logged-over parts of the forest.

I thought it was over when I retired from the USFS in 2014. Until then nearly every scoping announcement and NEPA document for proposed timber sales said the sale is needed to provide timber for the local economy. Most national forests stopped writing this because the public was learning it was just another excuse to log and road up a healthy forest. The real reason for these timber sales was to generate volume to achieve the Responsible Officials volume quota for his/her supervisor. If maintaining community stability was really the purpose of the sale the Responsible Official would sell it as an SBA sale to keep large mills from far away from purchasing it.

Commercially logging 1.67 square miles and constructing 1 mile of sediment-producing temporary road and re-opening about 4 miles previously used temporary roads. Most USFS line-officers obliterate their temporary roads after they are no longer needed. Obliterating these roads returns the sideslope to the condition it was in before the road was constructed. This means there is no longer a running surface. The fact you can "re-open" a temp road means this road was not temporary. You have no business fooling the public.

You say you will also reconstruct and maintain approximately 85 miles of forest road. This also causes sediment. It appears you are trading away the riparian health of the streams in the area for volume.

You know the public you claim to serve does not want their national forests logged. Anyone (including IDT members) associated with this tragic project is either 1) clueless about the resource damage caused by logging, or 2) does not care.

It seems to me the agency should promote knowledgeable professionals to important Supervisor and Ranger positions that are responsible for making decisions that will do what 340 million Americans want done on their national forests. Don't you agree Ranger Swanson? If you do then how do you explain approving a project similar to the ones that created the situations shown in Photos Attachment #14. Anyone claiming to serve the public wouldn't think of doing this. Not only do they look terrible but the land has been rendered unsuitable for any activity that benefits the general recreating public. You owe the public an explanation and an apology. Read Opposing Views Attachment #26 to learn what you should already know.

You know you must do the right thing to eliminate the possibility that the actions that created the damage in the photos never occurs.

I'm sorry for you all. Before I retired from the USFS I watched it happen. Before your first day on the job you wanted to use the things you learned in college to assure the natural resource you were responsible for protecting wasn't harmed. They knew most new-hires felt this way. They knew they must break you so you will embrace USFS goals and methods. You were all subjected to a sophisticated mind manipulation scheme. They

robbed you of your ability to think independently. Once the Responsible Official determined there would be a commercial timber sale at a certain location each specialist was expected to happily embrace the sale and write whatever is necessary to make it happen … no matter how much they opposed it. The rules of the game are clear and must be followed by those who want a career in the USFS. I find it strange that people must denounce their land values and ethics to keep their job. What would the public think and do if they knew this … one can only imagine.

There is a Reason they are called Riparian Reserves

Your scoping letter says you will:

"Manage Riparian Reserves to control stocking and acquire desired vegetation characteristics needed to obtain the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives: Treatment of stands in the Riparian Reserves would increase species and structural diversity and accelerate the ability of the to provide adequate stream shade, root strength, bank stability, sediment filtration and nutrient cycling, large wood supply to waterbodies and flood plains, organic matter input, and habitat for riparian-dependent wildlife"

A professional USFS line-officer would have directed their hydrologist to survey the Riparian Reserves to determine if 1) the streamside vegetation needed structural diversity and had enough root strength to provide bank stability, if 2) the vegetation shaded the stream to enough to keep the temperature down and 3) if trees needed to be felled into the stream to provide large wood.

Anyone who would even consider commercially logging a Riparian Reserve is clinically obsessed by the need to generate volume. Please seek professional help Ranger Swanson

One thing your logging will do for sure. You will destroy the riparian habitat.

People who run private industrial tree farms are the only ones who should be concerned about "need to control stocking."

Keep your logging equipment far away from the riparian reserves.

Please let the Wise Quotes below Guide your Actions

"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches, and a thousand tempests and floods, but he cannot save them from fools.
John Muir

"Let us a little permit Nature to take her own way;
she better understands her own affairs than we."
Michel de Montaigne

"I would feel more optimistic about a bright future for man if
he spent less time proving that he can outwit Nature and
more time tasting her sweetness and respecting her seniority."
Elwyn Brooks White
from Essays of E.B. White, 1977

"Government cannot close its eyes to the pollution of
waters, to the erosion of soil, to the slashing of forests any more than
it can close its eyes to the need for slum clearance and schools."

Franklin D.Roosevelt

"Today you can murder land for private profit. You can
 leave the corpse for all to see and nobody calls the cops."
Paul Brooks, environmentalist and author
from The Pursuit of Wilderness (1971)

"When the last tree is cut down, the last fish eaten, and the last stream poisoned, you will realize that you cannot eat money"
Cree Indian Proverb, about 1885

"We must protect the forests for our children, grandchildren and children yet to be born. We must protect the forests for those who can't speak for themselves such as the birds, animals, fish and trees."
Chief Edward Moody

Ranger Swanson, please cease work on this timber sale immediately and spend your NFTM dollars wisely somewhere else where the forest won't need to be restored when you are done.

Some resource specialists on the IDT have cast away their land ethics and values they had when they graduated from college to fit in with the USFS. If the draft NEPA document for the proposed Upper Canyon timber sale still contains treatments that will cause damage to the resources and my objection is rejected I will have court standing. Several environmental groups are supporting me financially. One has a pro-bono attorney. The IDT members will be asked to testify.