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Title:

Comments: Please accept my thoughts and observations on the proposed Midnight logging plans up the Twisp River drainage. If I understand things correctly the plan allows for trees up to 25" to be harvested? Even 20" trees are significantly old for these forests. Shouldn't these best exactly the trees that we need to be protecting?

I've been up the Buttermilk and seen the wholesale destruction brought on by thinning that is already going on. I feel more removal of slash needs to occur, as well as more oversight at to what gets cut and what remains. I feel very strongly that the size limit should be reduced to 14-18" and the real focus should shift to clearing brush, slash, deadfall, and other ladder fuels.

Destroying the flora and fauna opportunities from the wholesale logging operations that are planned is not a win for the Methow watershed. Using a lighter hand on the landscape can earn money through selective harvesting, provide seasonal work, and protect homes and businesses along the Wildland Urban Interface.

A secondary focus of restoration in this area is roads. There are miles and miles of old roads. Anything that we can do to close down motorized traffic benefits the community. Too many areas around the Inland Northwest are being scarred from ATV, and motorcycle access. Lets create thoughtful 'routes' which provide recreation without higgle-dy piggle-dy roads all over.

Count me against the Midnight Restoration Project as I understand it to be executed.