Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/14/2024 2:01:06 AM
First name: Barbara
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear US Forest Service:

I urge you to abandon the Midnight Restoration Project in the Methow Valley. We are in a time when we need to do everything possible to protect the forests because they protect us. They sustain life. They provide habitat for birds, mammals, insects, plants. They create watersheds. And they provide the opportunity for humans to connect to nature.

The proposed project is enormous. It will destroy the Methow Valley as we know it. It will have immediate ripple effects throughout the wilderness areas that abut it and long term devastating consequences.

Moving forward, as a US government agency, the US Forest Service needs to have an open, transparent process for forest stewardship that includes residents, indigenous people, and stakeholders. We know that there are many best practices for fire mitigation that do not require the "removal" of 69 million board feet of trees over a 200,000 acre area. I urge you to reconsider, slow down, and make sure that the project that goes forward will enhance life, not end it. Thank you for your consideration.