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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Midnight Forest Restoration Project. As a resident of Twisp, I spend a lot of time hiking in the Twisp River drainage and care deeply about the future health of this ecosystem in the face of climate change and an expanding human footprint on the landscape. Within the FS' current proposal I support the return of prescribed burning as a way of mitigating high severity wildfire, the thinning of small diameter trees, and thinning during winter in order to minimize ground disturbance. My biggest concern comes from the proposal's exceptions around cutting large diameter trees and what I have personally witnessed as previous prescriptions not being followed (ie. very large trees being cut). I ask that the FS drop all exceptions for cutting large trees, especially in the Late-Successional Reserves. While there is limited lynx and spotted owl habitat in the project area, I also hope that these areas will be given special attention and treated in a way that preserves their use for these species: retain trees in lynx habitat to provide the dense forest cover that they prefer, and keep complex multi-story forest in spotted owl habitat.