

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2024 6:38:06 AM

First name: rtha

Last name: Gaunt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly object to the Midnight Restoration Project. Once this damage is done it cannot be undone. How few places on earth remain that support large wild creatures like bears and mountain lions and let humans still feel and know what it means to connect with a truly wild place? So much destruction of the last (the last!) wild lands in our country and around the world is justified by short term fears and short-term profit goals. Fire has always existed with forests. Why is it that suddenly we need to chop down all of the trees as the only solution? The Methow Valley is one of the most spectacular, unique ecosystems on this planet--how might the Forrest Service and we as humans do everything in our power in service of the life of this place rather than grasp at a fear- driven, simplistic and profit motivated "solution". We as humans have so much capacity, so much creativity, so why would we settle for the most simplistic and destructive path if the motive were truly to protect and serve this land and the birds, plants, animals and human animals for whom this land is home? I implore you, stop this project! I implore you to take a long-time view and seek out more creative, generative perspectives. Do not let a short term plan destroy this land for generations to come! I have had the great privilege to know and love the Methow Valley and it breaks my heart that human hubris, fear and profit-motive could destroy something that has taken so much longer than any one human lifetime to become.