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Title: President

Comments: Subject: Concerns Regarding the CARLA Project at Evans Creek

I am writing to express our deep concern about the proposed plans for the Evans Creek area. As avid off-road enthusiasts and stewards of this beautiful landscape, we believe it's crucial to address several key points:

1. Variable Density Thinning: The plan to thin areas around the majority of trails is worrisome. While we understand the need for forest management, we urge collaboration to ensure that proper barriers are strategically placed. Our trails must remain tight and challenging, preserving the unique motorized recreation experience that Evans Creek offers. The commitment of both time and resources has shaped Evans Creek into what it is today, and we must protect that legacy.

2. Fuel Management Zones: The heavy thinning within 200 feet of the centerline risks altering the trail environment significantly. We implore you to explore alternative solutions or consider relocating this effort to minimize impact on popular trails.

3. Aquatic Organism Passages: While road closures are identified as potential sites for aquatic organism passages, we believe closure alone isn't effective management. Let's find a balanced approach-perhaps bridges or other innovative solutions-to mitigate ecological impact while maintaining access.

4. Transportation System Planning: Evans Creek's role as a transportation system is critical. We understand the plan involves outer-lying road trails, which will be made logging-truck ready and then returned for recreational use. However, we emphasize the need for a clear timeline to minimize disruption to OHV (off-highway vehicle) enthusiasts. Furthermore, roads should be restored to OHV standards, not just basic custodial care. An open logging road differs significantly from a trail experience, and this distinction should be reflected in the plan and contractual agreements with timber companies.

5. Year-Round Recreation: We advocate for year-round options for all motorized recreation. Our community thrives on access to these trails regardless of the season.

6. Coplay Lake and Other Trails: Fixing the bridge is the optimal solution. Closure disproportionately affects those with disabilities, limiting their ability to enjoy the outdoors. Instead, let's focus on proactive measures like increased patrols, natural barriers, signage, and education.

7. East Lake Area Protection: Erecting a gate at FR 7820 to protect the East Lake area seems unfair to our disabled members. Rather than outright closure, let's explore alternative ways to safeguard the environment while ensuring accessibility.

8. Carbon River Dispersed Camping: We agree that closure isn't the answer. Instead, let's enforce regulations through ticketing and address the behavior of those who mistreat the land. Punishing all for the actions of a few isn't equitable.

In closing, we appreciate your commitment to responsible land management. Let's work together to strike the right balance-one that preserves our trails, supports recreation, and safeguards the natural environment.

Sincerely,

Dave Fassett

President, Timber Tamers Off Road Club