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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Attn: USDA Forest Service Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
Methow Valley Ranger District Okanogan County, Washington
Forest Supervisor Tara Umphries,

I am objecting to many things that are proposed in this project, while in support of only a few.

1. I support small scale understory thinning of small diameter trees (no larger than 15" diameter) .This creates space for older trees to flourish, provide habitat for wildlife, hold carbon, and provide healthy, viable, and strong seed genetics. After thinning is implemented then prescribed understory burning along with all the slash should happen immediately.
2. All trees that are to be cut should be marked below the area of the tree to be cut by a Forest Service official, so that there is a way to monitor the trees cut. A logging contractor should never be allowed to cut what they want. This should avoid "surprise" clearcutting. Constant monitoring by a Forest Service official should be in this plan.
3. I support decommissioning of roads but do not support building of new roads. I do not support "suspending the roadless rule". This leaves too many avenues for heavy impact to fragile protected areas.
4. I am curious to know what plan the Forest Service has for the logging trucks moving up and down and through our valley. As i have already been witnessing these trucks speeding through the valley and slogging over the pass to Darrington. Our roads are narrow and these truck drivers seem to think they can take their lane and some of the opposing lane when they are over the speed limit. Since we have little to no law enforcement currently, how do you plan to remedy this?
5. As seen with the mission project you have very little credibility in doing any monitoring or control of these contractors you have "awarded" our trees to. What kind of guaranteed assurance can you provide us with, that will never happen on this project?
6. There has to be multiple strategies in place to protect wetlands, creeks and Rivers from any sediment that will undoubtedly be created by this project. That too must be monitored by the Department of Ecology and an USFW official to protect Salmon spawning grounds and protect our water from contamination of not just sediment, but oil, fuels and compactions from heavy equipment use.

I could go on and on, but i doubt you will even read this. But i have to be a voice for the voiceless. Our Trees, Our Wildlife, Our Creeks and Rivers need support and protection and I hope you understand that, and will do all in your power to make sure that this project has this in the forefront of the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and object.

Michelle Carfagno
Methow Valley Resident