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Kelly Lawrence, District Ranger

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Naches Ranger District

10237 U.S. Highway 12

Naches, WA 98937

RE: Little Crow Restoration Project Environmental Assessment

The following comments are provided after reading the lengthy 500-page document that relates to this assessment.

The document provides a wide range of scientific and personal subjective information from specialist.

1. In my professional opinion, these documents need to be summarized into reasonable and usable information. For example, this document details the history of the Yakima Valley but left out detailed history of the Old Naches Immigrant Trail.

2. The 1921 road seasonal dates need to be changed from April 1st [ndash] June 30th TO April 1st [ndash] June 15th.

Making this change will coincide with other trail and area opening dates. Currently, for the general public, having varying opening and closing dates on multiple roads creates confusion.

3. The document states that dispersed camping is causing mudding in the 1921 road area. This statement is false in nature. The real issue is there are openings in the tree canopy. These openings are not lush wet meadows. In these dispersed camping areas, vehicle traffic has caused rutting which is repairable and does not equate to mudding of the entire area. If you propose to close camping in the 1921 road area from April 1st to June 30th where will you relocated these families? When these families relocate themselves to other areas (due to this closure), what additional resource damage will occur?

4. In Chapter 3 Page 127 the plan states up to 14 developed and dispersed sites, including Crow Creek

Campground, Ponderosa Camp and 12 additional dispersed Campsites along Crow Creek and Quartz Creek may be closed. What is the plan to locate these elimated recreation sites in adjoining areas?

5. The Historic Naches Trail is currently closed to motorized use in the lower elevations. When restoration work begins on this project, the lower elevations of the Historic Naches Trail need to be preserved as it now.

Once you review and take my recommended changes into account, I support the Plan 2 Modified Action.

Sincerely,

Ron Rutherford