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Title:

Comments: Please find my word document attached. If the attachment did not come through, please email me.

[From attached word document:]

Comments on the Twisp River Restoration Project:

I will address the proposed actions as follows:

Need#1 [ndash] Hydrologic Function and Aquatic Habitat, and Need #5 [ndash] Roads and Trails

1. Roads End Campground: I have not observed the adverse impacts of the Roads End Campground on Twisp River spawning habitat, despite visiting that area many times over the last 25 years. In this area, the Twisp River is boulder-dominated and the road and campground area are not actively eroding or contributing sediment to the river. There are several down trees across the channel, but these are mostly perched up on rocks; woody debris is not a primary habitat influence in the boulder-dominated channel. Due to the gradient and confinement, woody debris is short-lived in this reach. I do not see the need to close the road, as it does not appear to have any substantial adverse impact.

2. Road system: The road system, both closed and open, is used by hikers, hunters, horseback riders and mountain bikers. Please do not obliterate roads just to meet targets if they are not actually causing a problem. I use a network of closed roads (Rd 4400025, 4400030, 4400043, 4400040, 4415120 and other [ldquo]unauthorized roads[rdquo] in the Little Bridge Creek drainage) as well as Roads 4300800, 4300856, 4300860, 4400115, 4400120, to name a few for mountain biking. These roads are mostly up out of drainages, well-vegetated, and not contributing sediment to fish-bearing waters. Please post a map of proposed road obliterations and reason for obliteration prior to any action so that users have a chance to review and comment.

Local residents also depend on the open roads for firewood gathering. Since pretty much the entire Twisp River watershed upstream of Buttermilk Creek is off-limits to firewood harvest, we need these roads to access legal firewood. Please post a detailed map and reason for any proposed closure of existing open roads. And of course, open roads make it much easier for fire suppression in the advent of yet another wildfire.

1. Reconnecting streams: Beaver have moved into the side channel that was created 2 years ago by Tribal entities on the Twisp River, about 9.5 miles upstream of Twisp. I understand that another side-channel on the National Forest parcel just upstream of this area has been under consideration. There is nothing stopping the river from creating a side channel here; why not just let nature run its course instead of trying to mold it into what you think it should look like? There are beavers in the area, so let them recolonize if they so choose. The flows in the river get awfully low, and by creating more side channels you are taking even more water from the mainstem.

The dispersed campsite located about 10 miles upstream of Twisp also needs to be addressed. The campground is located right on the banks of the Twisp River, in the floodplain and adjacent to private land. It is used in summer by recreationists, and in fall by hunters. But it is also occasionally used by [ldquo]squatters[rdquo] as a home base. Last summer I had to call law enforcement due to the trash and suspicious characters hanging out there. Also, there are no toilet facilities, although a private individual did install a privy last summer. But there is

no maintenance of this, so it will become a mess in the future.

As a good neighbor, the Forest Service needs to maintain this area. I don't leave trash and human feces in my yard, and neither should you. The neighborhood maintains an informal trail along the river through private property that connects into this National Forest inholding. We frequently walk through here and should not have to dodge toilet paper, deer guts, and other waste, or feel threatened by suspicious people camping next to our homes. Please understand that I am not advocating to close the area to public use, or to create a fee campground. I would just like to see the Forest Service do a better job at maintaining the area.

8) Chickadee trails: I support the efforts of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance to improve and expand the Chickadee area trail system. I would like to see the proposed trail along Coal Creek Ridge constructed in the near future. There is also a user-maintained trail along Coal Creek that needs drainage improvements. These two trails will create a nice link between Twisp River and the Chickadee system.

The Twisp River trail is also located within the project area. This trail is valuable for early season hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding when higher country trails are still under snow. It would really benefit the users to construct a bridge over Scaffold Camp Creek and replace the burnt out bridge over Eagle Creek, since these creeks are often high and hazardous to cross in the spring. There are also numerous hazard trees from the fire that will continue to threaten the trail for years to come. Volunteer groups did a remarkable job getting this trail back into shape this year after it was heavily damaged by the fire.

9 & 10) Thinning and burning: Please consult with adjacent property owners in planning harvest activities. While I am not opposed to some harvest & burning adjacent to my property, I have observed a few debris slides come down off National Forest lands onto my property, and I would like to not exacerbate this situation. This could be done by leaving a buffer along the slide paths and being careful with skid trail layout. As far as burning, please be considerate; we have endured many summers of smoke; burn when conditions are favorable for smoke dispersal.

11) Beaver dam analogs: see previous comments for item 4.

13) New temporary roads: Could they be left open a few years for firewood harvest, rather than immediately decommissioned?

Forest Plan Amendments

Snowplowing:

It is completely unacceptable to impede winter recreation access in the Twisp River drainage. If winter logging is necessary, please keep it on either one side or the other (Rd 44 side or Rd 4430 side) and open the other side to snowmobiles and skiers. If snowplowing is absolutely necessary, then create a Sno-park area at the end of the plowed area for recreationists. We have very limited access, there is only the Buttermilk and Twisp River roads groomed (and not on a very reliable basis!). Loss of Twisp River access for 3 years is just not acceptable. There is a small but loyal group of recreationists up here and Twisp River provides a unique, uncrowded experience, as compared to more popular areas such as Highway 20. We have already had our summer access restricted by wildfires several times; please do not cut off our winter access. With a little thought and planning the Forest Service should be able to allow for public access to our public lands as well as maintain them.

Winter logging is often mentioned as a panacea to prevent soil compaction. But I have seen the access roads a

muddy mess when a rapid thaw occurs, or other unforeseen weather conditions occur. And operations can get shut down if the weather doesn't cooperate. In this age of climate change, can we really rely on the right conditions for a long enough time period to make winter logging effective in preventing soil disturbance and in achieving the project goals? Re-evaluate the reality of winter logging to prevent soil compaction and consider careful harvest methods in the summer season.