

Kelleher, Stephanie

From:
Sent: Sunday, May 06, 2012 10:49 PM
To: Kelleher, Stephanie
Subject: Pilot Thompson Scoping letter

Dear BLM Medford Office,

This is my Pilot Thompson scoping letter.

I am concerned that pilot Thompson will be going ahead with out much data about pilot Joe. I was under the impression that pilot Joe is being monitored so the data collected can be used for the rest of the Middle Applegate. How will we know how to correct our mistakes when we dont yet know what those mistakes are? Data must be collected and understood to move forward wisely in application.

I am concerned there will be a negative impact on the fire danger in the pilot Thompson area if monies are not secured for activity fuels reduction with in and around the timber sale. Contracts with the logging companies sometimes allow those companies to get the cut out with out dealing with slash and with out dealing with fuels. How can we include activity fuels in the contracts? Why should this fall to the wayside thereby endangering the forest and land. Why are we spending tax payer dollars to clean up the forest? How can the timber companies be a part of the fuels reduction? It seems more efficient for them to do fuels reduction because they are already impacting the forest?

I am concerned that salamander habitat will be used as the skips in pilot Thompson. This seems counter to the basic idea of the pilot. It is my understanding that one of the pilots goals is to improve habitat for our creatures. If the salamander habitat is used for the skips, then the healthy habitat is being preserved which is great but no more is being created. We need to be creating healthy habitat by using the skip and gap methods throughout the landscape AND preserving the healthy habitat. This is true for spotted owl habitat too. We must be looking toward a future where it may be harder for the owl to live healthily. We need to create more healthy habitat for it. We have one of the last healthy spotted owl populations in the west. Let us protect this important indicator species thereby protecting an entire ecosystem.

I am concerned about any new road building. Roads create erosion and open the forests for OHV use. OHV use can tear up a riparian area in no time, harm sensitive habitat and generally trash the forest. We certainly do not need more roads in our forest systems. Please we need a road free plan.

I am concerned that there is no money for monitoring. This is a crucial part of the pilots. Please include funding for monitoring as part of the project.

I am concerned that the yarding corridors are essentially logging in the skips. There need to be creative ways to deal with this. The pilot is the perfect opportunity to use low impact methods of logging.

I have been an on going participant of the pilots projects since the solutions for forests conference last year. Finding ways to collaborate to effectively create healthier forests which will be a legacy we will all be proud of.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,