

## Kelleher, Stephanie

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 18, 2011 2:36 PM  
**To:** Kelleher, Stephanie  
**Subject:** Pilot Thompson Creek

I realize that the following is basically a pre-written letter from kswild, but as always, I am concerned that the forest work being done in our back yard (Pilot Thompson Project) will be done with true protection and conservation in mind. We have many beautiful old growth trees in the valley and if they were damaged or removed, I would be heartbroken. Please take the following into great consideration when planning this project.

Thank you...

[REDACTED]

I am writing to offer comments on the Pilot Thompson Project. As a part of this project, the BLM needs to protect our old-growth forests by retaining habitat for old-growth dependent species. The BLM should also protect clean water and fish habitat by removing the sources of sediment pollution, namely unneeded logging roads.

As a part of this restoration project, the BLM should refrain from constructing new roads. There are plenty of roads in the Thompson Creek watershed already, with a density that is greater than 3.5 miles per square mile of land. Several roads are problematic, especially those near streams and in other sensitive areas. Thompson Creek, with its low gradient and spawning habitat, is important for fish species, including Coho salmon. Please work to remove problem roads and protect the important salmon fishery in the watershed.

The BLM should protect large trees and old forest habitat in the project area, and preserve the remaining habitat for the northern spotted owl. Old forests and older trees are especially rare on the landscape and the BLM should take all measures to ensure that these older forests are not lost as a result of this project and that all larger trees are not targeted for logging. By focusing thinning of small trees, in forests that are not important for old-growth species, the BLM will avoid impacts while making the forests more resilient. This requires that the BLM leave enough tree canopy that these forests will continue to provide habitat for species such as the northern spotted owl.

I am also concerned that real restoration and fuels treatments drive this project by focusing on those areas most in need of work. Those areas are tree plantations, the wildland interface areas and places where small trees are encroaching on to dry sites such as those with pine trees on ridgetops. Wetter, fir forests are not a priority in this landscape for restoration.

Lastly, the BLM should use stewardship contracts so that more work that allow the BLM to keep revenues to help offset the costs of important restoration work.

Thanks for the chance to provide these initial comments. Please keep me informed as the project proceeds.