

ABSTRACTS

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES - TERRESTRIAL

Is THIS REALLY HAPPENING? OLD GROWTH IN DNRC^{TWS}

Jane Adams
Private Citizen, Kalispell, MT 59901

Jane Adams describes her experience as a “whistle blower” while working as a wildlife biologist for the DNRC. She tells the story of a large timber sale in the Swan Valley in which DNRC planned to harvest over 600 ac of high-quality old growth, yet the EIS didn’t even mention that old growth would be harvested. The EIS instead analyzed “old stands”, defined as stands at least 150 years old with 4 MMBF per acre, regardless of forest type. This definition is met by 6 large trees per acre. Such stands provide little to no habitat for old-growth associated wildlife species and few of the ecological characteristics of old growth. However, using this definition allowed DNRC to harvest most of the trees from virgin old growth stands, and claim that the number of acres of old stands would not changed. DNRC also claimed they only needed to maintain 13 percent of the Swan River State Forest as old growth, despite the fact that about 74 percent of it was old growth historically, and they have publicly committed to maintain at least 50 percent of historic old growth. Jane refused to support the analysis in this EIS, and management made working conditions so intolerable she felt forced to quit.