Swan View's News

Winter-Spring 2023

Swan View Coalition
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

"Nature and human nature on the same path."

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Government and Industry Set to Log it All!

The fix is in and billions of your federal tax dollars are being used to log and thin federal, state and private forests back to fictitious historic conditions! **On pages 2-3, we ask you to send a quick email to MT Department of Resources and Conservation to help stop it from logging what little remains of native hemlock forest on DNRC lands in Krause Basin!**

To add insult to the damage DNRC has already done to these forests, now it is asking for a federal subsidy to do more of it! This subsidy and the damage it will do to forest ecosystems is discussed on Page 4.

Wildlife snag run over by DNRC bulldozer in Krause Basin.

On pages 4-5, we also use the Flathead National Forest's proposed Cyclone Bill Project and its map to illustrate how both agencies and industry are determined to convert healthy native forest ecosystems into industrialized tree farms. On page 4 we also discuss how a growing cadre of researchers are fighting back at "falsification of the scientific record in government-funded wildfire studies" that are being used to rationalize logging and thinning forests to "restore" forests to falsified historic conditions!

On page 4 we also harken back to our 2001 Ponderosa Poster Child report, where we revealed that the Forest Service had been misrepresenting the historic condition of western forests through misuse of photos taken on the Bitterroot National Forest in 1909. Add enough lobbying money to the same old lies and that's why we and our forests are in the pickle we are in today!

As grim as it may sound, we are lucky to have people that support our efforts to keep fighting. **And one of our generous supporters has offered to match up to $5,000 in donations (See pages 6-7)! So please donate today and see your donation double!**

Keith

Reading a hard copy newsletter and want to access it in color with linked citations? Visit http://www.swanview.org

Help Stop DNRC Logging in Krause Basin Today!

MT Department of Natural Resources and Conservation intends to log more of what little native hemlock forest it hasn't logged already in Krause Basin! Please help us stop this phony "forest restoration" now!

Don't let DNRC do to this hemlock forest:

What it did to this hemlock forest in Krause Basin:

Please email DNRC's Pete Seigmund at pseigmund@mt.gov today and make the following points:

1. Don't log any more Western hemlock forests on DNRC lands!

2. Cutting down native hemlock forest to plant commercially valuable white pine and larch is not "forest restoration," it is ecosystem genocide!

3. Leave alone the block of hemlock forest along DNRC's access road running north from Foothill Road into Krause Basin. It is the last stand of hemlock the public can walk through and enjoy along this old closed road! (Unit 1, map on next page).

4. DNRC's past logging via the 2006 Foothills Timber Sale and subsequent blowdown "salvage" has turned the area into a denuded weed patch. "Restoration" requires that DNRC fix these problems, not create more problems through more logging!

5. Krause Basin cannot afford to lose another 50 log trucks full of logs cut from trees essential to ecosystem function and carbon storage!

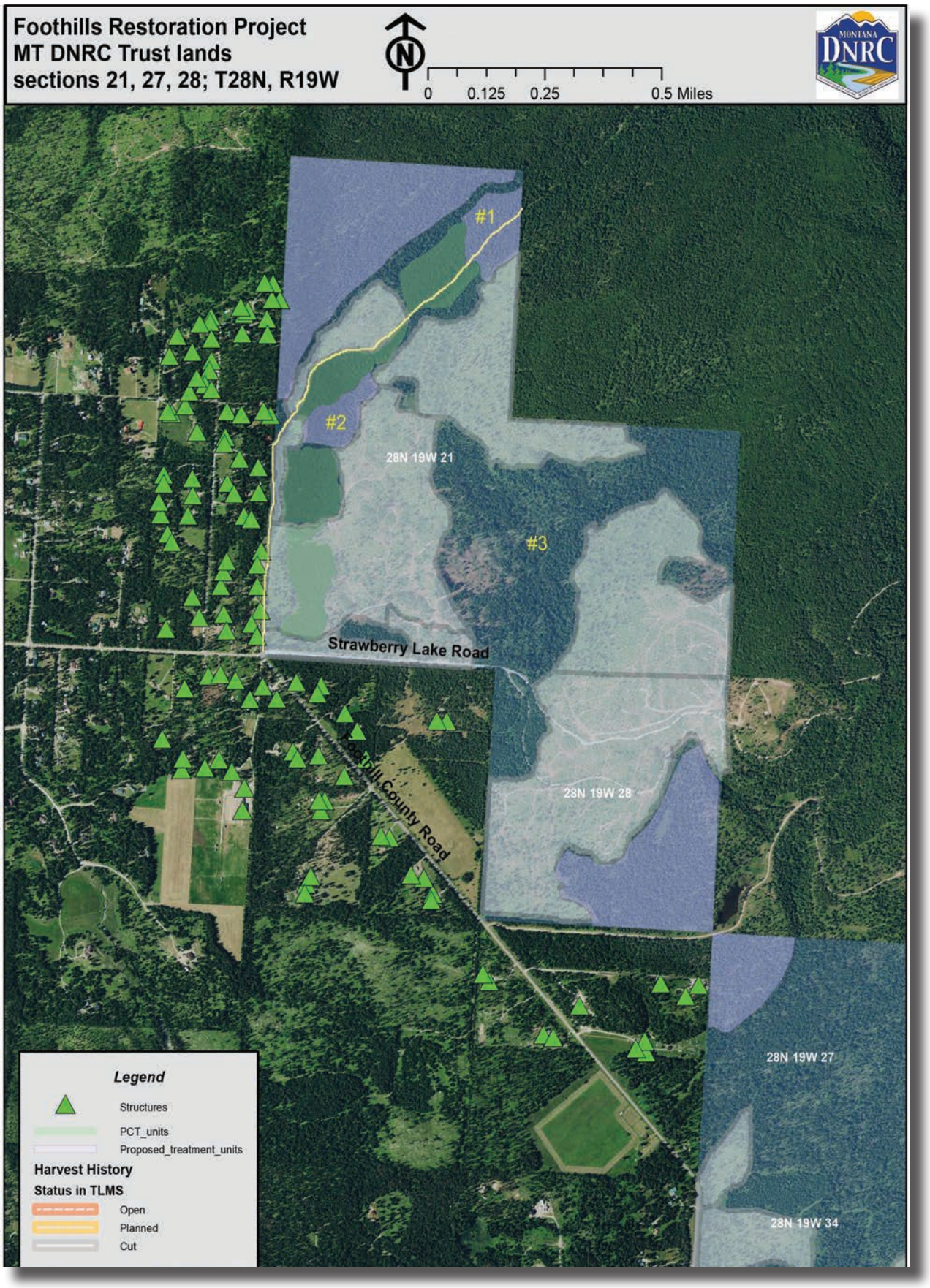
Click here to read our letter to DNRC, along with our map and photos detailing these problems and logging threats.

Click here to read DNRC's "Initial Proposal: Foothills Restoration Project."

Your comments are due by May 5. Best send them today so you can't forget!

Thank you for taking a few minutes to let DNRC know you want the hemlock forests in Krause Basin left alone!

(You can also visit this alert on our web site, at http://www.swanview.org).



DNRC map with notations by Swan View Coalition in yellow.

Leaving no Tree Uncut and Nowhere Without Roads!

In our Winter-Spring 2022 newsletter, we reported on how our government and industry want to thin all of our forests, regardless of the consequences to those forest ecosystems. And we reported on the billions of tax dollars being spent to subsidize that logging (which often ends up being the equivalent of clear-cutting) on federal, state and private lands.

MT DNRC, in the example on the preceding pages, is coming back to log some of the last Western hemlock forests in Krause Basin. Why? Partly because it intends to get a federal Forest Stewardship Grant to pay for removing commercially "low value" and "non-merchantable" wood.

As explained in our letter to DNRC, this wood, both living and dead, is absolutely essential to healthy functioning of the hemlock forest ecosystem! While DNRC wants to call this logging forest "restoration," it is instead ecosystem genocide - as DNRC intends to replace the hemlock with more commercially valuable tree species like white pine and western larch!

Take a look at DNRC's map on the previous page and ask the question "haven't enough of DNRC's lands already been logged?" It certainly appears that DNRC will not stop until it has logged all of it.

But the U.S. Forest Service is on the same path of converting native forests into industrially designed tree farms with enough roads to access every inch of them. Take a look at the Flathead National Forest's proposed Cyclone Bill Project (a.k.a. Timber Sale) on the following page. In the already heavily logged and roaded forests near Tally Lake, this project would construct another 18 miles of new logging roads!

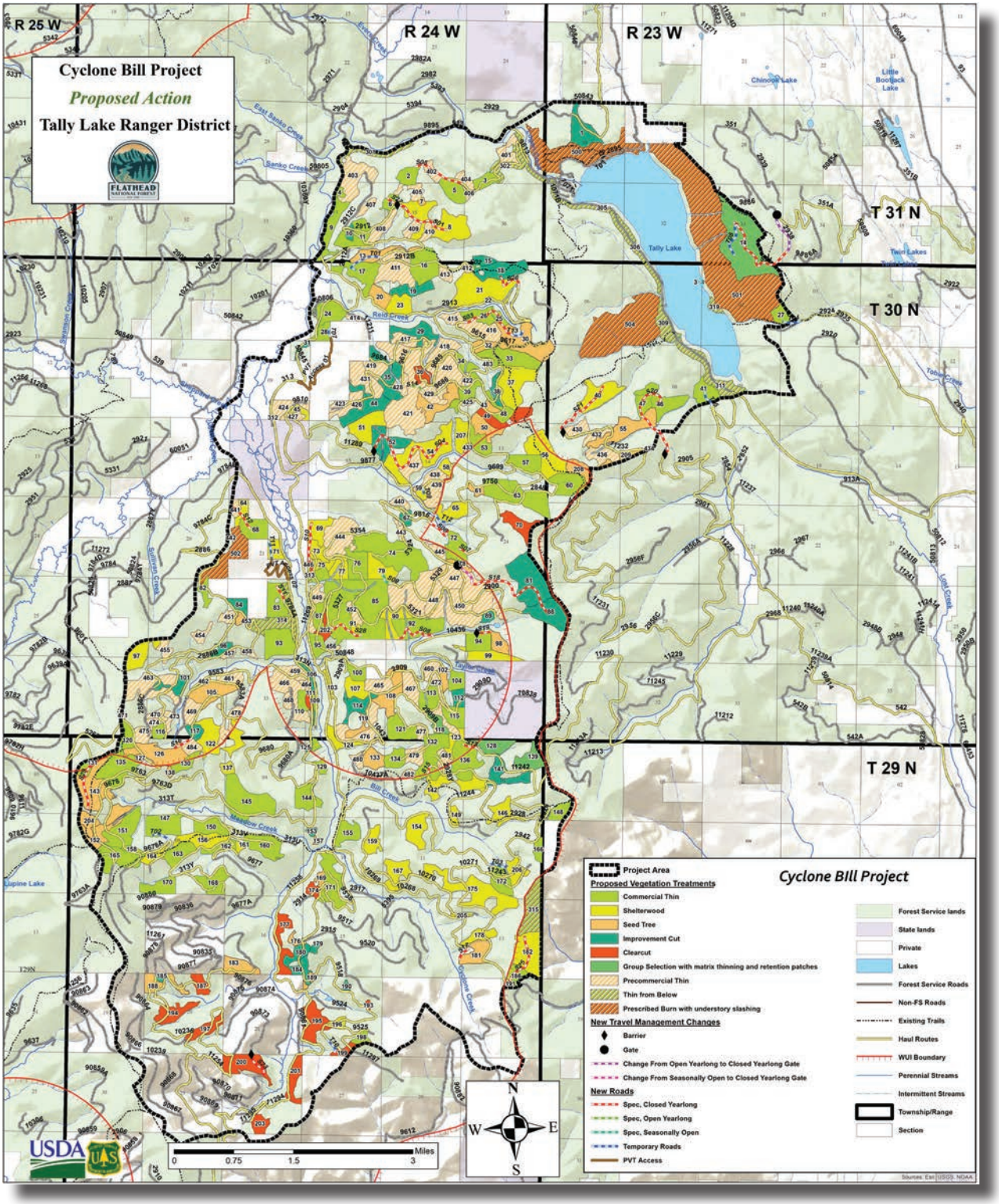
These heavy-handed projects, of course, are based on the false premise that virtually all forests are more dense and ripe for wildfire now than they were historically, and hence burn more severely. A growing number of researchers, however, are pointing out how industry, government agencies and government researchers are omitting the fact that many forest have historically contained dense stands of trees and a mixture of fire severities.

A recent report concludes "A central finding of high-severity fire recently exceeding its historical rates was not supported by evidence in the review itself. A large body of published evidence supporting the mixed-severity model was omitted." The John Muir Project provides a concise, one-page summary of the above study, which finds a "falsification of the scientific record in government-funded wildfire studies."

Swan View Coalition found the Forest Service was misrepresenting historic forest conditions in its 1966 poster "80 Years of Change in Ponderosa Pine Forest" and elsewhere. The Forest Service presented as the natural forest conditions in 1909 a photo that was actually of cleanup operations after a timber sale had thinned the forest! We issued a report called "Ponderosa Poster Child: U.S. Forest Service Misrepresenting the Historic Condition of Western Forests and the Effects of Fire Suppression and Logging." We also summarized our report in our own 3-photo poster, concluding "restoring forests to pre-settlement conditions requires removing the roads, not the trees!"

Rest assured industry and government are still misrepresenting the historic conditions of our forests so it can make logging and thinning them look like "restoration" to those prior conditions. And they are busy getting rid of wildlife safeguards that previously caused the Flathead National Forest to not meet its logging goals, according to the General Accounting Office.

How to Road, Log and Industrialize Your National Forest!



Flathead National Forest's map of its proposed road-building, logging, thinning, and burning near Tally Lake.

Unsolicited Praise for Our Work and Advocacy!

"I continue to be amazed at how much you can accomplish in a year, so here's a bit to help with the next." *D.B.*

"Thank you for all the years of giving a voice to wildlife and pushing back against the crazy humans and their machines." S.K.

"I know that you are 'on top' of activities on the FNF. I am grateful for all you do to protect 'the crown jewel' that we care deeply about." *P.A.*

"Great work. No, TREMENDOUS WORK!!!!!" *S.J.*

"We are so grateful for your knowledge and desire to protect the Swan Valley while monitoring those charged with its stewardship." *J.J.*

"Thank you for your invaluable work in attempting to re-implement Amendment 19 and have Judge Molloy's ruling honored." *R.W.*

"Your letter to DNRC is terrific - a great piece of advocacy. You make sense. I will write to support your position." *A.G.*

"Thanks for the nudge to comment about the Somers Beach State Park. I was happy to write a letter expressing a desire for a more natural, rustic area with limited facilities." *M.V.*

"Thanks for the great letter. I was just going to sit down and write one along the same lines!" *K.N.*

"Very nice letter in the Beacon about protecting our grizzlies!" *N.C.*

"You did an awesome job. Really gave 'em hell and glad you were [at the meeting] in person to do it." *C.S.*

"It makes me proud of our organization, that it takes a firm stand on out of control recreation." *K.K.*

"Because you fight hard for what is right, and always keep us informed." *A.A.*

"Thank you for all you do to protect our wildlife and wild places!" *D.S.*

"So grateful for your continued stewardship of the activist side of the Swan Rangers!" *J.P.*

Please Help Us Meet a $5,000 Donation Match!

We are about half-way in raising $5,000 in individual donations this Spring, which will be matched by a local generous donor. So please make a donation today and watch it get doubled! Details on various ways to donate are on the following page. >>>

Your Donations are Currently Being Matched by a Generous Local Donor - So Donate Today and Double Your Gift!

We rely in large part on member donations to fund our work protecting habitat for fish, wildlife and people. **You can help us broaden our membership by giving Gift Memberships at $25 each,** either on-line or using the form below! **It's easy to join with and help others support our work:**

1. Send a check to Swan View Coalition at 3165 Foothill Road, Kalispell, MT 59901 - or -

2. Use your credit card securely on-line at https://swanviewcoalition.networkforgood.com (or by clicking on the Donate Now button at right)!

Network for Good handles your transaction securely for us and informs us immediately via email of your donation by credit card. You can also choose to give monthly, quarterly or yearly there to make it easier or more affordable (or change your mind anytime)! If you have other info you want to get to us, such as Gift Membership info, simply email it to keith@swanview.org or mail it to the address in #1, above.

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If there is pink on your mailing label, it means you haven't donated in nearly a year or more. Please make a donation so we can keep sending you our newsletter and continue our work!

[ ] Here's $25 to cover my minimum dues, newsletters, alerts, and Swan Ranger Reports.
[ ] Here's $50 to help restore a bit of peace and quiet to America's public lands.
[ ] Here's $100 to help keep forest roads from ending up in America's bull trout streams.
[ ] Here's $500 to help secure grizzly, lynx and wolverine habitat for future generations.
[ ] Here's $_____ to help save the world, one mountain range and one river at a time!
[ ] Here's $_____ for ____ Gift Memberships at a minimum of $25 each. I've included each recipient's name, mailing address, email address, and my greeting on separate paper.
[ ] As a gift of appreciation for my donation, please send me [ ] the Swan/Flathead history booklet "The Lineage of Chief Aeneas: A History of People and Place" and/or [ ] a Swan Ranger patch (circle "hang-loop" or "sew-on").
[ ] Save paper! Email my newsletters to _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

Swan View Coalition, Inc.
3165 Foothill Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

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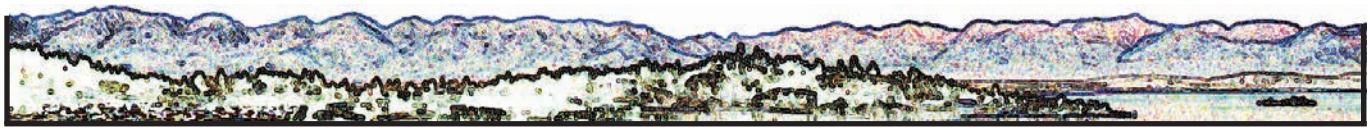

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Executive Summary **page 1**
ACTION ALERT: Help Stop DNRC Logging in Krause Basin Today! **page 2**
DNRC Map of Proposed Logging in Krause Basin! **page 3**
Leaving no Tree Uncut and Nowhere Without Roads! **page 4**
FNF Map: How to Road, Log and Industrialize your National Forest! **page 5**
Unsolicited Praise for our Work and Advocacy! **page 6**
Donate Now and See it Doubled by a Local Generous Donor! **page 7**