

From: [Taylor Orr](#)
To: [FS-appeals-northern-regional-office](#)
Subject: [External Email]Gold Butterfly Project Objection
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Bitterroot National Forest,

There is a growing body of scientific evidence that shows logging and thinning of forest lands, in many scenarios, is ineffective in reducing catastrophic wildfire.

Old growth is an important component of healthy wildlife and fish populations, and a prerequisite to maintaining a vibrant, high-quality watershed. Consequently, forest plan old growth percentages should be increased.

The Sapphire Mountain range roadless areas provide excellent grizzly bear habitat. Recent USFWS monitoring data suggests that there may be a resident female grizzly in the Sapphire range. The project should be modified to reflect her likely presence.

Forest thinning as proposed will make the remaining forest stands drier and wind prone, allowing fires to burn more intensely.

Large intact forest environments are critical to mitigating climate change by providing carbon storage and sequestration. Harvesting trees on a large scale is deleterious to fighting climate change.

No new roads should be constructed, or old roads reconstructed in the project area. Montane roads single-handedly have the most destructive environmental impact to mountain biogeography. Roads cause long-term resource damage to fisheries and stream biota, bird nesting habitat, roadless dependent wildlife, and the alteration of native plant communities followed by the consequent introduction of noxious weeds.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Gold Butterfly Project.

Sincerely,

Taylor Orr
