

September 4, 2024

Bonanza Project

Ranger Helen Smith

White Sulphur Ranger District

Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

PO Box A

White Sulphur Springs, MT 59645

Dear Ranger Smith,

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please accept these additional comments from me on behalf of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Council on Wildlife and Fish, Center for Biological Diversity, and Native Ecosystems Council on the proposed Bonanza Project.

Page 4 of the Bonanza Preliminary Report states:

The predominant goal of the treatment is to maintain, restore, and enhance ecological integrity, diversity, function, and resiliency within structural and functional properties that would enable vegetative communities to persist into the future. This objective is designed to move the project area toward desired vegetative conditions as outlined in the Forest Plan. This includes tree species presence, size class, density, and large tree structure. This would be achieved using harvest treatment methods identified in the proposed action.

The Forest Service has not shown that the project will meet the desired vegetative conditions as outlined in the Forest Plan.

Because of this, the project is not meeting the purpose and need of the project.

Please explain how the project will meet the desired vegetative conditions as outlined in the Forest Plan.

Thank you for your attention to these concerns.

Sincerely yours, Mike Garrity

Alliance for the Wild Rockies

P.O. Box 505

Helena, Montana 59624 406-459-5936

And on behalf of:

Sara Johnson Native Ecosystems Council

P.O. Box 125

Willow Creek, MT 59760

And on behalf of:

Steve Kelly

Council on Wildlife and Fish

P.O. Box 4641

Bozeman, MT 59772

And for

Kristine Akland

Center for Biological Diversity

P.O. Box 7274

Missoula, MT 59807

kakland@biologicaldiversity.org