



F.H. STOLTZE LAND & LUMBER COMPANY

Lumber Manufacturers

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December 10, 2024

Objection Reviewing Officer
USDA Forest Service
Northern Region
26 Fort Missoula Road
Missoula, MT 59804



Good for you. Good for our forests.™

Member Company

Dear reviewing Officer:

On behalf of F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co., thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for the Cyclone Bill project during the Objection Period.

Stoltze is not writing this letter to Object to the Cyclone Bill Project, rather we think the Project needs to quickly move forward to project implementation. Stoltze provided scoping comments on March 22nd, 2023, and Draft EA comments on September 10th, 2024.



Member Since 1966

Stoltze would like to outline the major reasons for our support along with suggested improvements during implementation

1. We are pleased to see that the Forest will be commercially treating 9,192 acres. Stoltze owns and manages about 12,000 acres that is adjacent to the proposed sale area. We find it to be critical that these lands adjacent to ours be treated to help mitigate fire risk as well as help improve forest health across the landscape. Treatment on the Forest Service side of the property line will benefit both us, and the USFS when it comes to mitigating wildfire risk. Stoltze would like to remind the Forest that supporting local industry and providing useful raw materials to maintain a robust manufacturing sector should be a principal objective to any project including the Cyclone Bill Project. Montana's forest products industry is one of the largest components of manufacturing in the state and employs roughly 7,000 workers earning about \$300 million annually. Without the raw material sold by the Forest Service, DNRC, and private lands these mills would be unable to produce the amount of wood products that the citizens of this country demand.



Charter Member

2. We would also like the Forest to know that it has been well documented that thinning in riparian areas accelerates the stand's trajectory to produce large conifer trees and has minimal effect on stream temperature with adequate buffers. Removal of suppressed trees has an insignificant short-term effect on down wood, and ultimately a positive effect on long-term creation of large down woody debris and large in stream wood, which is what provides the real benefit to wildlife and stream health. We encourage the Forest Service to focus their riparian reserve treatments on a variety of native habitats
3. Stoltze supports the logging plan proposed for this project. The flexibility outlined in the proposal allows for a more efficient and effective harvest operation. *"Tree removal in units with commercial products would include ground-based mechanized harvest and cable systems, or a combination of those systems. Mechanized falling, whole tree yarding may be used to remove forest fuels from the stand to a landing pile and excavator piling may be used to pile activity generated and natural fuels."* Having the use of multiple different harvest systems allows purchasers to not only create a better finished product but also allow them to harvest the timber in a safer, more effective manner.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a letter of support for the Cyclone Bill Project during the Objection Period. Should there be other Objections, Stoltze would like to be a part of the resolution meeting and have the ability to voice our support for the Project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Bishop". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "B" and a trailing flourish.

Matt Bishop
Forester
F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Co.