

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/30/2025 10:33:39 PM

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Comments: I strongly oppose the 'treatment' proposed by the Forest Service for the 8,000 acres in Hyalite/Cottonwood drainage. This land is of Wilderness quality and it deserves protection; Wilderness needs to be left alone.

Now, more than ever, we should all recognise the importance of setting aside wild lands and open spaces for our health, our sanity and our future. My biggest concern, as a 31 year old Bozemanite and American woman, is the protection of insects, animals and all creatures in the name of clean air, clean water and quiet places. In Montana, we still have today most of the animals that lived here before colonial invasion and genocide; we should cherish our clean and healthful environment as our heritage.

Trees, whether fallen or standing, are not 'fuel,' but they are the air we breath and the clean water we drink. Fallen trees are important habitat. When forests burn, it is a rejuvenation of the habitat all animals and people rely on; forest fires are natural occurrences. To say that the trees are what 'fuel' the fire is an anthropocentric way of viewing our world we live in: what fuels disaster like catastrophic wildfire is human caused. Due to natural and human-caused climate change that we currently are experiencing, the atmospheric temperatures are changing our seasons, which change our forest and its resilience. In fact, trees are referred to as 'fuel' by the Forest Service, mostly because the wood products put money in a few people's pockets, and industrial-scale recreational exploitation of the 'treated' landscape fuels people's constant desire for more. The logging roads fuel the expansion of the wild-urban interface, contributing directly to the invasion of important habitat for the animals. It is false to claim timber as a renewable resource, especially in our dry state of Montana. Once the native trees are logged, those same species will not come back in the same way, if at all. Old growth or new growth, the forest will be forever changed by the Forest Service's 'treatment' and lack of science-based decision making. Cutting down trees is not protecting our water, it is just logging and building more wasteful, empty trophy homes in places they shouldn't be. Protecting our watershed is leaving it alone by limiting human use and abuse of the land.

The Wilderness Act was established in 1964, to protect untrammelled land from checker-boarding and consumerism. The Hyalite Porcupine Buffalo Horn Wilderness Study Area would have been expanded and finally become Wilderness designated back in 2020, but the Forest Plan Revision catered to greenwashed environmental groups and multi-use ideology that waters down the best protection for these significant and sacred wild lands of Yellowstone. Groups like Wild Montana, Gallatin Yellowstone Coalition and the Wilderness Society formed a collaborative 'partnership' that had money from the corporations of Yellowstone Club and Big Sky that they used to push a profit-based model for 'mixed-use.' Such corporations had used these NGOs to 'wash their hands' and boost their 'zero emissions' image in light of all of the wasteful and polluting treatment and development on Custer-Gallatin National Forest public land, all while getting the Forest Service to believe that 'mixed-use' is the best use: liquidate natural resources, extract profit and expand recreational development to cater to thrill-seeking elites who wont live to see the day when there is no longer clean water to drink.

Leave what is well off alone: protect our Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem by standing up for science and standing up for our Montana constitution. Much public involvement and taxpayer money has already been dedicated to preventing the threats of logging, checker-boarding and 'fuel reduction' in South Cottonwood Canyon.

Logging/thinning will increase the chance of a fire: reducing shade, drying the soil and increasing wind penetration, which is the major factor in large fire creation. Stop trying to "get out the cut" and be true to our National Public Lands management.