

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/30/2025 6:00:00 AM

First name: NANCY

Last name: SCHULTZ

Organization:

Title:

Comments: South Cottonwood Comments-Please accept these additional comments 5/30/2025

The South Cottonwood project is the first project in the Custer Gallatin National Forest done with the final plan.

The Cottonwood project following the Forest Service decisions will allow habitat destruction in the area that is home to endangered species, including grizzly bears, lynx, wolverines and other wildlife.

Logging in a critical wildlife habitat and wildlife corridor connecting the Yellowstone area to other mountain ranges is not protective of wildlife that depend on intact ecosystem. South Cottonwood is in the land designation of recreation emphasis, which means what it says. Motorized use of the area is extensive to the east and west, with South Cottonwood as a protected forest (purchased and land traded to be included as a wilderness area).

South Cottonwood is two miles wide, and sandwiched between motor use areas. In essence, it is a small intact forested area. It does not take much imagination to understand the importance to wildlife. Also, it is well known the negative effects of motorized use on wildlife, especially the listed grizzly bear.

The Forest Service messages South Cottonwood as an emergency project to protect human habitation. The facts don't support the emergency. Nationwide 80% of wildfires are human caused, and 79% human caused in Gallatin County. The other 20% are lightning caused. A better way for the Forest Service to look at fire would be to go back to messaging Smokey the Bear and his slogan, "Only you can prevent fires"

In addition, the Forest Service should go back to messaging the science; home hardening, clear vegetation away from structures, install sprinklers, zone areas that are important to wildlife, especially migration corridors, have lands designated for approaches to an underpass or overpass for wildlife movement.

Nancy Schultz

420 North 10th Ave

Bozeman, MT 59715