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Dear Forest Supervisor Anderson and District Ranger Winthers Darby Ranger District, Bitterroot National Forest

I hope you all had a nice Thanksgiving.

Please accept my comments on the Buckhorn/Gird Creek GNA project. These will be brief because there is little to comment on. No details have been divulged except for large clearcuts and the cutting unit boundaries, one which includes an area of previous terracing during the clear cut crisis when the public learned it could not trust the Forest Service to do what is right by the forest. The soils in the terraces will take years to recover, so more disturbance is unwarranted. We are unaware where temp roads will be built or if they will increase sediment load in Skalkaho Creek or other creeks in the area.

No one knows whether this project follows NFMA, The Bitterroot Forest Plan, HFRA, ESA, SMZ or EHE standards because we don't know. Overmature lodge poles are mentioned, but no old growth map has been supplied. Please supply this. HFRA requires the retention of old growth. Is there any in the clear cut area? Will Old Growth be retained and encouraged?

Please also supply a detailed economic analysis of the project costs and be transparent about where the money will go from this project.

HFRA and GNA requires restoration as a large part of the project, yet none have been mentioned in scoping.

What we do know is that this does not comply with NEPA because the public cannot make meaningful comments without details. We only know the cutting units, but not what will be done to make the area more resilient. This is even more egregious because the CE and HFRA and GNA system is an expedited system, essentially leaving the public completely out of the process.

Thanks for your time. I hope that you go back to the drawing board on this one and include the public.

Michele Dieterich