Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/24/2020 6:05:46 PM
First name: Joe
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: LaVA is back with a modified version?? The main thrust of this project to me basically is the same as the first one. Especially the clearcuts totaling 95000 acres. Here is a viewpoint of what that looks like. If you drove from Laramie to Centennial and cut a five mile swath out of that distance, that would be close to 150 square miles or the 95000 acres. That is what what is proposed for forest health. Another is the 600 miles of roads to get to the "treatment" areas. That is the same as bulldozing trees down from Laramie, Wyoming to Kansas City, Missouri. Add on another quarter million acres for mechanical thinning and burning. For sure large wildlife will benefit, others that depend on forest density will all but disappear. LaVA claims to provide by law habitat for endangered lynx. Post LaVA for sure there will be no lynx. We do however have an abundance of American marten, a FS indicator species. With the loss of canopy and forest fragmentation, American marten will be history or isolated in pockets. The answer in my opinion as to why this is all happening is the present administration we are in. While I do support 90% of what this administration is doing for our country, environmentally they are a disaster. A good example, national forest as crops! They also are pursuing opening the Tongass National forest no matter how hard people of southeast Alaska are opposing it. In the Payette National forest of Idaho the FS was sued by Wildearth Guardians for a 125 square mile clearcut again with the majority in opposition. I am a trapper, hunter and believer in using forest products wisely. But LaVA is a monster I won't support. I am a member of the National Trapper Association , not the Sierra Club. Litigations have occurred so often against the FS only because of their own over reach. China is the largest importer of American timber products. This administration has worked hard to increase our agricultural exports to China which is great for our economy and country. But the national forests belong to the PEOPLE who need a bigger say, not the administration or the Secretary of Agriculture. I believe the Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 is being used as a guise to open up these huge logging operations. In that act it says the FS should work along side forest ecologists from universities. Our local forest ecologists have stated many times that the beetle infestation in the MBNF is all but over and they have opposed LaVA. It seems the FS has not accepted their expertise. Thankyou for letting express my thoughts and as you have already assumed, I am in favor of the no action alternative.