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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, and thank you for considering input concerning the Salter Vegetation Management Program.

I have lived in Montezuma County since the mid-60s and have enjoyed countless hours spent, camping, hiking, mountain biking, and skiing in the local forest.

I do believe there is a need for conscientious forest management in the area but I am not convinced that logging on such a vast scale is the best way to achieve the desired results of a healthy forest, a thriving local economy, and a happy and healthy populous.

Over the years I have witnessed firsthand the disruption and destruction that logging causes. I have also witnessed the growing outdoor recreation economy that provides not only jobs and income but quality of life benefits that you can't put a price on.

The recreation economy that is reliant on the trail system at boggy draw brings in and generates an immense amount of income and value which remains local, here in Montezuma County. Logging activity in the Boggy Draw area could be disastrous to that income stream for the local economy while providing a limited number of local jobs and exporting a majority of the profits outside our community. I am certain there will be a number of locals employed by this project but I would hate to see a Company from Canada or even Montrose come in and destroy an incredibly valuable asset and take their profits elsewhere. The damage to the recreational resource, and the local businesses that depend on it, will far outlive the financial benefits for those few locals that are involved in the industry.

Many local volunteers have invested thousands of hours of labor to create the trail system that has become a major draw for visitors from all over the world to our area. In addition to the money that these visitors spend while they are here in our local restaurants, markets, gas stations, and other retail businesses, one must also consider the incredible value that these trails provide for the local citizens!

So, I don't disagree that some sort of comprehensive management for fire and insect infestation is a good thing. I just don't agree that destroying such an economic and quality of life asset is necessary to achieve the desired end product. And let's be honest, that's what this project will accomplish.

Please consider re-examining the scope of the proposed project and eliminate that area which encompasses the boggy draw trail system and those areas in the view shed which will be affected.

Current residents and future generations will be grateful for your conscientious consideration.

Thank You

Keith Evans

p.s. and please, no logging trucks on weekends and holidays!