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Comments: I have lived in Colorado my entire life and have had the unfortunate experience being evacuated due to a forest fire. Communities have encroached into the forest ecosystem and the need for responsible mitigation is undeniable. But just as a forest ecosystem is a delicate balance so are the small mountain communities around it.

Places such as Cortez and Dolores struggle with not having the economic diversity of larger metropolitan areas so this adds a great emphasis on the importance of resources in these communities. The Boggy Draw recreational area is a prime example of a critical community resource. This recreational area attracts tourists from all over the world and brings essential revenue into the community. People who are camping, hunting, hiking and biking spend money and a good amount of it at local stores, bars, restaurants, shops, etc. There have been many articles in media sites such as the Men's Journal and Outside magazine that are testament to widespread enthusiasm for Boggy Draw.

The area is also greatly appreciated by the full time residents who sacrifice a lot of convenience and security to be closer to such resources. Residents are so passionate about the area that many groups such as SWCCA devote a lot of time, money and manpower to maintain and improve access to trails for all visitors. It is a vital part of the mental health for many individuals as well who find solace on early morning runs or stress relief whipping around the mountain bike on Boggy Draw trails on a weekly basis.

So while responsible forest mitigation is necessary it should be done with utmost consideration for the community. A 10 year logging project that interrupts the Boggy Draw trail systems could be devastating to the local economy and health of the community. People are creatures of habit and disrupted tourists who cannot make their annual trip to Boggy Draw may not come back. Blocking or closing frequently used trails may pull away attention and resources away from local interest groups. Community members who are no longer able to maintain their routines may move elsewhere.

So please work with the community if the planned logging/mitigation goes forward. Minimize the impact on trails and prevent any closures or disruptions to tourism.