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Organization:

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Comments: Dear sir/madam,

This proposed project gives me a great deal of concern and trepidation, particularly after reading comments from the Montrose Forest Products and the Intermountain Forest Association. It's obvious that there is a significant financial incentive at play here, notwithstanding environmental fire concerns. Our country is just beginning to rebound from the cataclysmic Covid disaster and our natural, unspoiled surroundings have been so important in helping us to maintain a sense of hope and mental well being through these trying times. For those of us in Dolores and surrounding areas, Boggy Draw has played an important role in lifting both our spiritual and physical spirits. I say this not as a kumbaya tree hugger but as an emergency physician only too aware of the impact that Covid has had on our society. We are just now beginning to emerge from this darkness. Local businesses such as Kokopelli Bike are gearing up to take advantage of the major interest hikers and bikers from all over are showing in the Boggy Draw expanse, interest that will translate into economic windfalls for local businesses. That this project is slated to begin this summer is short sighted and counterproductive, to say the very least.

My wife and I had moved to Dolores two years ago from Flagstaff where a similar project caused the Museum Fire which very nearly burned the town to the ground and cost nearly ten million dollars to control, not to mention the damage to the beauty and the recreational opportunities in the affected forest areas. The immense stacks of discarded wood, the denuded forest groves, the barren meadows permanently scarred by huge tire markings left by that particular FS project were less reflective of "thinning" but more of a "scorched earth" policy. I fear that the Salter project will follow the same pattern and that Boggy Draw will be another casualty of logging profiteering, the public and nature be damned. I strongly urge you to consider not only the dollar value of the extracted timber but also the priceless benefits that Boggy Draw has given to so many of us that love this part of the San Juans.