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First name: Mia

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Organization:

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Allowing salvage timber allegedly helps managers address the perceived risk of fire. However, it has been found that mountain pine beetle infestation does not impact the annual area burned in the western U.S.; if conditions are right for a fire it will burn with or without beetle-killed trees (Hart et al. 2015). The public should therefore be informed that removing salvage timber reduces fuel in the forest in the event of a fire, but the beetle-kill trees do not directly cause fires. In one salvage logging study, the authors found that harvesting costs are 10% to 30% higher than timber costs, making production economically infeasible (Iranparast Bodaghi et al., 2018). Production costs were higher than common logging in the study areas because machinery was required to collect the trees (Iranparast Bodaghi et al., 2018). Furthermore, salvage logging is not a large part of Gunnison's local economy, so it will not benefit the area to allow salvage logging (Gunnison Public Land Initiative, 2019).

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