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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Swan Mountain Project.

I am a resident of Summit Cove and a long-time user of the trail systems affected by this project. While agreeing with most project goals, I am most concerned by the large clear-cuts around almost all of the trails. This would be devastating for those of us using the trail system. I know I speak for many neighbors and friends.

We hike and cross-country ski these trails throughout the year. The beauty of the forested sections of the trails is one of the main draws. From the heavily used Whispering Pines trailhead, the main attraction and beauty of skiing or hiking the loop from Soda Creek to Groovy Uvi trails is the extensive wooded areas and variety of the terrain. It's hard to imagine wanting to go out on this loop after the proposed massive clear cuts. We often hike or ski from the Horseshoe Gulch to Whispering Pines trailheads, and do loops on Blair Witch and the Colorado Trail. The wide clear-cuts around all the trails would destroy the current beauty, solitude and windbreaks of the woods - the main reason most of us go out and use these trails.

Surely there must be other ways of achieving the fire mitigation goals through thinning and removing dead trees, and relocating any needed clear-cuts to be above or off the trails. At least by leaving some sections of the trails in the trees, and preserving those areas with existing spruce and firs, forest health could be greatly improved..