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First name: Willow

Last name: Burke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am strongly opposed to this "project". The biggest current threat to the Forest the many thousands of acres of young, doghair pines. If these areas can be thinned, it will help the Forest in every way. It will really increase their growth so that someday, they can be thinned again and provide logs to the timber industry. This should be the primary focus of the FS for at least the next decade or two. The proposed project of cutting spruce should never take place at the scope and scale you are suggesting. Many of the issues you are trying to remedy were actually caused by other projects by the forest service where man is playing God (and getting paid for it) and deciding what trees are ok to remain and which aren't. Fires are natural in a forest and there are other options to manage this besides cutting down living healthy trees. We live in the Hill City area and the number of down trees on FS land is astonishing. I know there is no money to be had by this cleanup and burning slash piles of this wood that will be prime fuel for any spark, but you should focus on this and thinning young pines and leave our beautiful forest alone. On my opinion, these projects are a bigger threat to the health of our hills than any spruce growth.