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Organization:

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Comments: As a previous long term resident of Victor up Bear Creek Trail and now a resident of Missoula, I have some serious concerns with this project.

Commercial logging if allowed in the Bear Creek area, would be devastating to water quality and habitat. I can't even imagine how this could be accomplished in this narrow drainage without complete destruction of the creek. For that matter, commercial logging should not be done in any of Management area 5 or in old growth. After touring the Mud Creek project area I was disturbed to learn that the large ponderosa pines we observed there could be logged and the definition of old growth would be changed to allow for this.

New roads of any kind should not be allowed in the project area. Roads would further destroy wildlife habitat and water quality. Existing roads are not maintained adequately already.

No logging should take place in roadless areas or recommended wilderness. These are critical habitats that need to be kept intact as much as possible to preserve what little is left for wildlife.

For a project this large and impactful, an EIS should be completed rather than rushing through with an EA. In addition, the public should not be removed from the decision making process over the decades of this project, where critical decisions will continue to be made.

Thank you,

Teresa Brock