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Comments:

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COMMENT: South Plateau Timber Sale 83 Million board feet

Thank you Amanda:

Good job on the SPLAT tour! I am impressed with modern logging practices and state of the art policy for restoration. My comments below are being sent to the web page you provided. Hope to hear back from the finance specialist about below cost timber sales.

BOTTOM LINE:

The cost to the public (Westmart Bldg. center) for one board foot of 2x6 lumber is \$1.37.

Therefore the cost of 83 Million board feet = \$114,125,000 at todays market rate.

The USFS has anticipated a high bid of \$2.6 Million. Favoring the private sector by selling one board foot of lumber for pennies (\$0.03) on the dollar!

It seems very lucrative for the lumber industry at public expense. Why couldn't the public get a better return, for selling out our national forest treasure?

AUDIT OF BELOW COST TIMBER SALES:

As a former Federal Auditor for the NPS, my question is "How much revenue" has been generated with these below cost timber sales in the pristine Hebgen Basin Grizzly habitat since Jason Brey has been District manager?

How many Grizzlies have been displaced by vast industrial scale logging of what little remains of our old growth forest habitat?

Thank you and staff for the visit. To me the sale seems some what benign, re-logging previous clearcuts, and thinning second growth regeneration.

Forest fire mitigation is indeed required; and to me the primary reason for timber harvest as fire breaks.

LOGGING VS. ECOTOURISM:

But Yellowstone ecotourism is more valuable to local residents than logging; & should not be negatively impacted by USFS political pressure to "get the cut out" destroying the #1 reason the public visits the

area.....wildlife viewing.

Our current policy of below cost timber sales leaves the developer earning millions and the "public chump" is paying inflated prices for forest products, further supporting the timber industry.

Below cost timber sales also remove accessibility to standing dead trees for firewood collectors..... making it very difficult for lower income locals who rely on wood heat.

Sincerely,

Bob Lindstrom
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