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Comments: In the newly proposed South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project (SPLAT), the U.S. Forest Service is proposing to punch 56 miles of roads into the Hebgen Basin in order to log, bulldoze and/or burn 23 square miles of prime wildlife habitat, extracting over 80 million board feet of timber. That amount of logging would require about 25,000 logging trucks to haul out of the forest.

"This is a massive road building and logging project," according to Darrell Geist, Buffalo Field Campaign's habitat coordinator. "It's in Hebgen Basin where migratory buffalo roam the National Forest, and where the Custer Gallatin is undertaking another project to log nearly 9 square miles of wildlife habitat and plow over 15 miles of roads into the buffalo's winter range and spring calving grounds." Yellowstone's bison are a candidate species for listing as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition to impacting wild bison - which are nowhere mentioned in Forest Service's sparse documentation of the proposal - the roadbuilding, logging, and burning will occur in or near habitat for a wide diversity of threatened wildlife species, including grizzlies, lynx, and wolverines. According to a recent report, wildlife populations have already been reduced by an average of 80% in just the past 50 years, in large part due to habitat destruction and degradation like SPLAT.

This staggering decline in wildlife populations is, in part, attributable to mismanagement of public wildlands by agencies like the Forest Service. As Nez Perce environmental scientist James Holt, who serves as BFC's Executive Director, points out: "According to the Forest Service - who we must remember are paid by our tax dollars, and not by the timber industry - this intensive logging, burning and road-building of 32 square miles of habitat in the Yellowstone Ecosystem, some of the best wildlife habitat in the world, is insignificant and will not give rise to any adverse environmental impacts for the public to be concerned about!"

This project MUST NOT HAPPEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!