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Organization:

Title:

Comments: We lived in West Yellowstone from 1980-87 working for Yellowstone, and Gail also working for Gallatin National Forest for 3 years. As conservationists and forest explorers who value our imperiled native wildlife, our magnificent landscapes and our clean air and water, we are opposed to this environmentally devastating project or any of the alternatives. Projects like these are opposite of what we need in this era of climate change. We must preserve our old growth forests and their habitats. Our biodiversity depends on it.

This project is unsustainable on many levels and must require an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) because of its many harms that the FS has not fully addressed. Twenty-three square miles of wildlife habitat in the magnificent Hebgen Basin would be logged, burned or bulldozed. Wildlife biologists must fully assess impacts to native wildlife like grizzly bears, buffalo, lynx, and wolverine. Wildlife resiliency would be greatly diminished by this project. Viewsheds from trails would be destroyed by this project. Fifty-six miles of roadbuilding would decimate habitats, cause erosion and greatly lessen air and water quality. The forest needs fewer roads, not more.

We are especially concerned about our national mammal, the bison. Nine square miles of land and 15 miles of road are in prime buffalo habitat. Prescribed burning brings new grass and buffalo to the highway where they can be killed by traffic.

The Forest Service (FS) says that this project will have insignificant effects on wildlife but that is preposterous on its face and shows why an EIS should be mandatory. You have not examined long term harms that this project would surely cause to people, wildlife, air, water and soils. Then there is the climate, the elephant in the room. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem would be diminished by this overly expansive and unnecessary project that seems to have been created by the FS for the logging industry.

We urge you to just say NO and consign this awful project to the dustbin. We urge you to listen to people who value the very things you would destroy.