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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Friday, November 4, 2022

Custer Gallatin National Forest

ATTN: South Plateau Landscape Area Treatment Project

PO Box 520

West Yellowstone, MT 59758

Subject: Protect imperiled wildlife and our climate by conserving mature forests, not clearcutting them. Reject the South Plateau Project -- South Plateau Area Landscape Treatment Project #57353

To USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore, Northern Region Regional Forester Leanne Marten, Custer Gallatin National Forest Supervisor Mary Erickson, and Acting Hebgen Lake District Ranger Wendi Urie:

I urge you to terminate the South Plateau project proposed for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, which provides habitat for abundant wildlife.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."

-- Ansel Adams

South Plateau would chainsaw hundreds of clearcuts, each up to 30 football fields in size, with the majority of the clearcuts in mature forest. Some logging would occur just a few hundred feet from the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. The project would also bulldoze up to 57 miles of "temporary" road.

This would destroy and fragment secure habitat for species including imperiled lynx and grizzly bears, as well as increasing the potential for poaching and other harmful human-bear interactions. The proposal also contradicts President Biden's directive in Executive Order 14,072 to conserve mature and old-growth forests for their tremendous wildlife, carbon-storage and watershed-protection values. And all this devastation would come at an estimated \$3 million price tag to taxpayers.

At an absolute minimum, the U.S. Forest Service must prepare a full environmental impact statement, rather than a lower-level assessment, for this long-term, massive project. I urge you to protect the Yellowstone ecosystem, its wildlife, and our mature forests by terminating the South Plateau project.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,

Christopher Lish

San Rafael, CA