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Comments: Amanda Williams, NEPA Team Leader
Custer Gallatin National Forest
Hebgen Lake Ranger District
West Zone
P.O. Box 5220
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Project 57353
Dear Amanda Williams:

The 2021 report on the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem, www.gyclimate.org , said that the climate will get hotter and drier. This report that protected forests slow the rate of warming more at higher latitudes and protected areas show reduced warming buffer capacity. Both of these studies need to be evaluated in regards to the South Plateau project.

Not doing the proposed logging project is what I recommend.
https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abo0119
Protected areas provide thermal buffer against climate change
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Climate change is pushing temperatures beyond the thermal tolerance of many species. Whether protected areas (PAs) can serve as climate change refugia for biodiversity has not yet been explored. We find that PAs of natural (seminatural) vegetation effectively cool the land surface temperature, particularly the daily maximum temperature in the tropics, and reduce diurnal and seasonal temperature ranges in boreal and temperate regions, as compared to nonprotected areas that are often disturbed or converted to various land uses. Moreover, protected forests slow the rate of warming more at higher latitudes. The warming rate in protected boreal forests is up to 20% lower than in their surroundings, which is particularly important for species in the boreal where warming is more pronounced. The fact that nonprotected areas with the same type of vegetation as PAs show reduced warming buffer capacity highlights the importance of conservation to stabilize the local climate and safeguard biodiversity.
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