Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2023 7:00:00 AM First name: Rose Last name: Chilcoat Organization: Title:

Comments: Thanks for the opportunity to comment. I am concerned about the large scale/scope of the proposed projects and that they are being lumped together. Logging, a gravel pit and mountain bike trails are three diverse projects each of which deserves full public attention. Diluting public attention and input does not serve the public interest. The projects are not really related to each other.

I am a mountain biker but believe the Forest Service is failing to act in the public interest when they attempt to legitimize an illegal user constructed mountain bike trail system after the fact. "Build it and they will approve it" seems to be the mountain bike communities' mantra. On the outskirts of nearly every town in this region where there is public land there are multiple unplanned, user created trail systems. All without NEPA. Without consideration of other important values of our public lands. Without consideration for other recreational users. No consideration for wildlife being directly impacted or displaced from ever decreasing critical habitat. When will the bikers be satisfied? Seems like never. There are many places to ride and recreate. There are very few for elk and mule deer to live, safely travel, have their young and raise them undisturbed.

Put more effort into identifying and stopping the illegal trail proliferation. Don't reward discovered trails by making them system trails. Issue citations. Confiscate bikes. Rogue behavior needs enforcement not further encouragement. Jackson Mountain is not where a trail would have been chosen to be developed if wildlife was a consideration.

The Forest Service knows users are creating trail systems (not just through use but with actual construction) yet fails to take actions to stop it. This is a violation of the public's trust. Do your job. Do not move forward with approval of this trail system and reward rogue behavior.

As to the gravel pit. Seems like one is needed. The siting seems reasonable even though neighbors potentially will be impacted. I'd take one finite gravel pit over yet another maze of wildlife habitat impacting mountain bike trails.

As to the fire mitigation (aka logging). Natural fire is the best way to manage a forest resource. Cutting mature and old growth trees reduces carbon storage and forest resilience to stress (including fire). Studies prove that with extreme weather and fire no amount of mitigation prevents catastrophic fire behavior. The only way to ensure safety in the WUI is for home owners to fireproof their homes and private property. The Forest Service should assist with those efforts and leave the forest in its natural state.