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Organization:

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Comments: My husband and I hike/camp/backpack in the Red Feather areas. We care deeply about that area.

-In some areas the forest is too thick with small diameter trees and therefore the moisture does not get down into the soil/understory areas. With the limited western moistures, thinning is very important as well as taking out diseased trees. This helps to ensure when the forest burns naturally from lighting it doesn't burn as hot. Taking out non-native species is very important then replanting with native trees/bushes which provide the native animal species with food should be re-established.

-have hikers use native flower seed "bombs" which can be thrown and dispersed to re-establish wild flowers.

Work with nurseries to procure the native wild flower species and make the bombs.

-Find and work with a group to re-establish the mycelium which is so very important for the forest floor to enrich and breakdown the dead falls of trees. The mycelium is the fuel for rotting and nourishing the forest floor.

-Observation of current burn piles is very unsightly and many times large pieces of charcoal timber should really be burned more thoroughly and then broken up and dispersed for nutrients for the forest floor.

-removing enough dead falls so that moisture can get into the trunks that are selected to remain. Creating open cracks in the remaining trunks will also help with rotting. Too many dead falls are too close together in some areas thus these can burn especially hot when a fire erupts.

-controlled burns are wonderful except for when we lived in New Mexico. The forest service there burned down thousands of acres of forest and hundreds of homes. Ensure to not burn on WINDY days or when wind might come up. Ensure those burned areas are closely monitored like you did last year so no sparks or hot spots reignite.

-Work with PWV and other groups to create new trails and make fire roads in areas where no access currently exists. This allows more access for the nature lovers and ensures the forest service fire crews have easier access for fires and maintenance.

-Consider restricting access by electric bikes with the lithium batteries to certain trails as they are showing signs of spontaneous combustion tendencies. These are not easily extinguished.

-Our forests are our life as it creates the oxygen we breath and it in turn uses our CO2. Mycelium also helps with the CO2 uptakes. This symbiotic relationship is important and this needs to be kept in mind when you are planning the re-establishment of our forests.