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Comments: Please accept my comments for the proposed Black Diamond Landscape Resiliency and Risk Reduction Project (#62591) in the Canyon Lake Ranger District west of Fort Collins, Colorado.

It is my understanding that the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is proposing a 265,000-acre project in the Roosevelt National Forest that would include logging, thinning, and burning in four designated roadless areas. It is also my understanding that the project would take advantage of illegal, user-created roads to access and treat areas.

The public lands within the project area are home to at least two federally threatened species-Canada lynx and Preble's meadow jumping mouse. Elk, northern goshawk, and greenback cutthroat trout are also endemic to the area and would be adversely impacted by this project as well.

The intention and motivation behind Roadless Areas in our national forests and public lands is to prevent the kind of wholesale clear cutting and burning that the USFS is proposing with this project. It is also extremely cynical that the USFS is going to use roads that were illegally built to access the area.

Because the USFS is always under pressure to "get the cut out", the fact they you have chosen to utilize these illegally constructed roads belies any desire on your part to reduce risk and build a natural resilience within this forest and the roadless areas. This is a make-work project, nothing more. It is cynically proposed to get at the timber within these areas. The only benefits are to the budget of the USFS and the bottom line of the timber companies that the USFS contracts to do the work.

What would reduce harm and risk to the flora and fauna of these areas would be to permanently close and restore the illegal roads that have been created. This would return these areas to their intended state of being truly roadless. I would request that the USFS not proceed with this project and instead assign funds to closing and restoring the illegals roads to their natural state.

If thinning needs to be done, it should be done using non-mechanical means, such as llama teams and crosscut sawyers. Piles could be manually built and burned during the winter. I would request that should the USFS proceed with this project that they consider an alternative to the currently proposed project that reduces impacts from logging and burning.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.