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Comments: I am writing in opposition to the Morgan Nesbit project. I'm concerned about proposed large tree logging, clearcuts, and high intensity thinning.

There is abundant elk and other wildlife sign within the project area. High-intensity thinning will reduce habitat availability. There is a high potential for habitat fragmentation, as the project area separates the Eagle Cap and Hells Canyon wildernesses. Elk, wolves, and other species desperately need cover while passing through this wildlife corridor. Clearcuts will be especially harmful to wildlife cover.

Much of the commercial area has never been logged. Logging of large trees in these areas will release sequestered carbon and further increase the deficit of large trees for wildlife habitat and forage.

In addition to fragmentation of wildlife habitat and loss of large trees, the proposed logging will impact human use. I've had the privilege of exploring the area, and it's a beautiful place that has outstanding recreational value. The area is already popular for elk hunting and huckleberry picking.

This project should not include commercial logging. At the very least, the project should be revised to preserve wildlife corridors and prohibit large tree logging and clearcuts. However, any logging in this area is a significant loss of biodiversity. I urge the Forest Service to revise this project for restoration only.

I would also like to see better implementation of prescribed burning. Currently, scoping maps show most of the project area covered by a prescribed burn. However, the landscape in the Morgan Nesbit area is highly variable. Much of it is moist mixed-conifer forest, and there are many microclimates. If executed, prescribed burns should show more attention to the landscape.