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Comments: Comments on Swan Mountain Project #60771

First, considering the scope and far-reaching environmental impacts of the many components of this project, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) needs to be completed.

Second, from the standpoint of the existing trail system, as a full-time resident living adjacent to the north project boundary, I urge you not to implement this plan without revisions. I know I speak for many residents who use the recreational trail systems that are affected. Many of us chose to live in this area because of its proximity to these trails. This project, as currently written, will devastate their scenic and recreational value. It will also destroy the many healthy spruce and fir stands that they pass through.

If clear-cutting is the method to be used to meet the fuels reduction goals, surely they can still be met, along with preserving the existing trails, by moving and/or staggering the clearcut areas above those in the current plan. As a minimum, 100 foot corridors on each side should be established along current trails. Also, a careful assessment of those locations with large areas of existing mature, healthy fir and spruce stands could save these areas, by not including them in the clearcuts.