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Organization:

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Comments: As conservationists who value a sustainable future, wild landscapes and our shared biodiversity, we are opposed to the South Plateau Area Landscape Treatment Project for myriad reasons, the most pressing being our earth's climate crisis. This project originated in the Trump Administration and it has failed to adhere to the guidance of the Biden Administration with regard to climate emissions and the costs compared to the benefits. The facts remain that mature trees sequester more carbon and mature trees should thus be preserved for those benefits. There is simply no climate accountability to this project. The cost of carbon emissions per year of this project could reach \$27,000,000. Yet you say the benefits of preventing wildfires, insects and disease outweigh the climate risks. We disagree. Lodgepoles need wildfires to grow; insects and disease are part of the natural cycle of forest life. We believe you greatly overstate the carbon storage of wood products that would come from this project.

We lived in West Yellowstone in the 1980s and so know this area well. To clear cut 5,500 acres of mostly mature lodgepole pine, build 57 miles of road on 16,000 acres along the western boundary of Yellowstone National Park (YNP) would fragment habitat for certain imperiled species like the grizzly bear and would greatly harm ecosystem integrity. We remember the huge clear cuts of the Targhee N.F. as seen from space. This project would produce the same appalling and unnecessary destruction of the land, the public's land, for the foreseeable future. We sincerely hope this project will be stopped if not by you by litigation which we will gladly support.