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First name: Charlotte Last name: Clarke Organization:

Title:

Comments: Gold Hill, Rainbow Lake, Ophir Mountain have been RUINED for recreational hikers by

CLEARCUTTING.

I do not think this much is necessary for fire control or any other reason. Howard Brown has submitted notes on Swan Mountain Project that could be mirrored here. The Natural History of Coloado by Mutel and Emerick goes into GREAT DETAIL about these forests and the natural sequences that are interrupted by clear cutting.

I used to enjoy hiking Ophir and Rainbow Lake and Gold Hill but NO LONGER. Aesthetics are ruined.

Can't a few trees be left here and there? On my last hike up Ophir Mtn not long after the clearcut there was a baby porcupine under a fallen log - doomed because nothing left to eat was even in range.

The recreational aesthetics must be balanced with science and fire mitigation. You're ruining the forest I've enjoyed for 30 years.