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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a Town of Frisco resident and a frequent user of the "backyard", I am in strong support of the proposed action. This project will provide the town and surrounding WUI an increased buffer from a catastrophic wildfire. The majority of the timber units in question are standing dead and prone to wind throw and are a safety hazard to the public who recreates in this area.

I am concerned about the existing trail network within the timber units, including those currently part of the USFS system and those non-system routes under analysis. While many of these trails are not currently within the USFS system, they do receive a lot of love. Community members regularly put in big efforts to clear downed trees and establish positive drainage on these trails. Once forest management (and in many cases clear-cutting) occurs within these areas, the soil characteristics change significantly due to the lack overstory and understory vegetation. As we saw after the work on Ophir Mountain was completed, what were once sustainable trail surfaces able to withstand the natural elements, the trails became exposed to solar and wind exposure and much of the topsoil and nutrients in the O horizon quickly disappeared. The trails on Ophir Mountain have become rutted and eroded and carry water directly down the fall line during and after storm water events. I would like to see a revegetation and restoration plan as a project design criteria incorporated into the decision notice to mitigate potential effects of erosion in clear-cut logging areas. Slopes over 3:1 in grade should receive immediate attention after logging occurs.

In regards to the "cabin trail" that connects the Colorado trail near upper Miner's Creek road to other existing USFS system and user-created trails above Rainbow Lake, this trail provides an extended loop with vertical and mileage that currently provides access to an area of Miner's Creek that is highly suitable for recreation. With proper drainage and maintenance, this trail could provide a recreational experience currently unavailable in the Frisco area. Due to the fitness level required to complete this loop, use will continue to be low and should offer no more impacts to wildlife than already occur. I would advocate for the "cabin trail" to be adopted into the USFS trail system.

Thank you for considering my input and the input of the community.