

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/15/2023 7:58:18 PM

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Comments: I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal.

Regarding the Fuel Mitigation part of this proposal:

There is not enough information on these 11 treatment sections as to what will actually be happening. It appears that Clear Cutting is an option in the majority of these 1200 acres. Given that this is the cheapest way of clearing a site, it seems a likely result for these areas.

Clear cutting in this area will result in monoculture lodgepole, increased erosion, higher temperatures and will reduce carbon sequestration. Of course on its most basic level, clear cutting results in a barren landscape for a number of years reducing the beauty of why many of us use these Frisco trails in our backyard. As listed in Howard Hallman's informative comments, there are many other options that could be utilized. Daymon Pascual's comments also resonated with his links to how clearing forests worsens wildfire damage. Will you be working in conjunction with other science based organizations that are working in the fuel mitigation space such as The Nature Conservancy?

This proposal is lacking in enough detail to make an informed decision. Are they considering all the environmental costs? What is the loss in carbon sequestration due to the wide scale tree removal? Older growth trees sequester more carbon than newer growth. Will this cost be considered? Is this the best way to mitigate fire dangers to Frisco? Is this proposal based on the latest cutting edge scientific data for fire mitigation? What are they doing with the trees that they cut? What will be the economic loss to Frisco as people avoid the area due to the denuded landscape? Will the previous Ophir Mountain Fuels Project in 2011 and the 2009 Tree removal projects be assessed and evaluated to guide this project? Was Ophir Mountain considered a success story? It is not a well enjoyed trail anymore with the barren landscape. The rainbow lake area that was clear cut within the last few years has now made that hiking trail especially in the winter, with the exposed wind, a very unpleasant experience.

As currently proposed, I do not support this fuel treatment plan. There should be a complete Environmental Impact Statement done so that we understand the full scope of the costs and benefits of this proposal. I don't think that in this particular area that clear cutting should be an option for this landscape.

Regarding the Recreation Trail part of the Proposal, it was very hard to determine where exactly the trails were. There was no legend and not enough detail to determine the proposed changes. It was very hard to decipher these maps. Where exactly are the proposed bridges? I'm concerned that these are going to lead to added traffic, reduce the forest experience and more negative interaction between hikers and bikers. Again, not enough information was given to fully evaluate this proposal.

Thank you.