Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2023 7:19:45 PM First name: Amy Last name: Hume Organization:

Title:

Comments: We all have a story of time spent in the forest known as "Frisco Backyard". As an educator, I spend many hours during the school year exploring this area and providing experiential learning connections to our Inquiry Based Curriculum. Additionally, we moved to Frisco from Breckenridge, for the proximity to the forest, the trails and wildlife, and most importantly, the solitude found in the hills behind our home and community. However, over the past few summers, the aesthetic nature of these woods has changed drastically due to the fuel reduction that has taken place. Clear cutting large plots of land has negatively impacted both the human and animal balance within the forest. "There is no evidence that clear cuts are useful in response to wildfires. Over time, natural disturbances have evolved into environments in which ecosystems can thrive and adapt. Some wildfires completely destroy the forests, while others make patches on the landscape and skim over some areas. It is beneficial for animals and the ecosystem to have patches of land, but it is not beneficial for the ecosystem to have broad, open blocks of land. During a wildfire, all of the burned biomass (plant material) and nutrients in a burned forest stay on the ground to aid in the regeneration process. This biomass and nutrient is removed using a clear cut. Clear-cuts expose existing forest soils, making them vulnerable to erosion by water and wind. As habitats become fragmented as a result of clearcutting, wildlife will be forced to seek food, water and shelter outside of remnant patches. This can lead to a decline in population and/or population density, adversely affecting both genetic and biological diversity." Including an increase of wildlife in town, our yards our school. I strongly oppose the mass cutting that is being proposed for the Frisco Backyard and suggest that the nature of such a project be considered in greatly depth prior to commencement.