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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please redraw the treatment areas so that Personal Use firewood cutters are allowed to harvest the trees within 100-300 feet of roads in the Rainbow Lake area and along the Miner's Creek Road. I have been cutting firewood along the Miner's Creek Road for many years, but clear-cutting by large mechanized timber companies will take away my and other firewood cutter's ability to harvest wood if the treatment areas are enacted as proposed. I moved to Summit County in 1984 and have always heated with wood. Wood heat is sustainable and carbon neutral, and Personal Use permits should be encouraged, not discouraged by giving all the easy areas to timber contractors. The contractors have heavy machinery and equipment to harvest steep areas away from established roads, and should be restricted to only those areas. Personal Use firewood cutters should be allowed to do the cutting whenever and wherever feasible. This was done 35-40 years ago in Frey Gulch to combat the problem of beetle kill. Unfortunately, these efforts were abandoned in favor of large sales and clear cuts that took away options for Personal Use permittees. The side road up Frey Gulch still has thousands of dead trees but no one can harvest them because the road was closed and the area turned into the exclusive use of motorcycles. The end of the main road was gated, removing other options for personal use cutting, and other accessible areas were clear cut by contractors. Keystone Gulch was clear cut, taking every tree, which also eliminated options for personal use cutters. Hiring timber contractors is not equitable to the personal use cutters who seem to have less and less options and areas to harvest wood. Allowing personal use cutters to harvest accessible areas would promote fairness and equitable use of public lands by all, and would support the local economy and decrease the use of fossil fuels.

Also, please stop referring to this project area as Frisco's "Backyard". These are public lands and do not belong to the Town of Frisco; they belong to all Americans. A better project name should be selected, one that reflects the USFS mission to manage this area to promote Multiple Uses and the USFS's responsibility in the NEPA process to consider and respect the ideas, comments, and interests of all Americans.