

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/7/2023 7:54:37 PM

First name: Noreen

Last name: Breeding

Organization:

Title:

Comments: This is a wasteful and misguided project, especially thinning along non-motorized trails. I have hiked and skied in this area for 20 years and have grieved with every new forest clearcut and road (mostly on private land). The Bear Canyon drainage is especially important to wildlife, such as moose, yet the CGNF decided to promote motorized trails in the area which, by the way, are in just as poor condition as they were before the 2006 Travel Management Plan was adopted.

Here are reasons to abandon this project:

1. Up to 1000 foot wide fuel breaks along trails will absolutely ruin recreational experiences. It will feel like walking a trail at Glenn Lake Park in Bozeman rather than in wild nature. It will also be hotter with less shade.
2. Tree thinning and ground cover clearing will severely reduce habitat for wildlife, especially birds, and truncate their migration corridors.
3. Forest thinning, especially in breaks as small as 1000 feet, has not been proven to stop the spread of wildfire. What has been proven is that thinning the canopy causes the land below to dry out and heat up, becoming more fire prone.
4. Disturbing the forest floor will increase the spread of noxious weeds, a very serious problem on the forest. (Take a look at the Canada thistle patches around Maxey cabin or in Dean Gulch off Bear Creek.)
5. If the intent is to make protecting structures in the WUI from wildfire easier, it has been shown that the most effective action is thinning and clearing ground cover around the structures. The most effective use of Forest Service resources is to offer them to citizens for fire proofing their structures.
6. Intact forests are one of the best tools for reducing global warming.