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Comments: Hi,

I'm very concerned about the consideration of the hiking trails at Chestnut Mountain and Bear Canyon as "fuel breaks". These trails are a scenic amenity and using them as a corridor to remove trees has considerable negative impact on their aesthetic and recreation value to the community. I do see that other thinning projects have left some canopy trees behind - but this still degrades the value of these trails in a permanent way.

I do however, have no issue with using the current roads shown on your map around Goose Creek as fuel breaks. This seems an appropriate use of the land given it's current and past use, and adds fire protection value to the city of Bozeman.

Lastly, as another alternative you might consider - Goose Creek and Bear Creek are both popular backcountry skiing destinations. It might be possible to create thinned areas that both add recreational value for the community as well as create fire protection value. I'm a local guidebook author and would be happy to advise on where this might be feasible.

Thanks,

Ben