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Comments: MTSFW (Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife) we are a sportsmens organization with members throughout Montana. Our organization strongly supports good stewardship of our public lands for the benefit of the landscape and the fauna that exists. This project would be very beneficial to reduce fuel loads and promote the growth of the White Pine which is essential to the survival of grizzly bears. The removal and thinning will promote the growth of essential feed for ungulates thus increasing their populations in a positive way. This project will benefit predators in the fact that increased prey will provide increased food supply.

After reviewing this proposal is clear that it will improve the vegetation and terrestrial ecosystems by improving their diversity and resilience. Also it will reduce fuel loads making the forest much more fire resistant which would limit the negative impacts to the natural resources that exist.

Projects like this constantly get challenged in the courts, so the end results have led to an unhealthy forest that is much more fire prone. The ungulate populations in this area have suffered due to this lack of active forest management, as a sportsmens organization we are concerned over this issue.

MTSFW supports this proposed project and thinks that it is a positive step in good stewardship and all species of wildlife will benefit, please carry on with this effort.