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First name: Christopher

Last name: Corsi

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Christopher Dowling

USFS Swan Lake District Ranger

200 Ranger Station Rd

Bigfork, MT 59911

Dear Mr Dowling,

Thank you for making sure the public has the ability to comment on the Rumbling Owl project.

I am very happy that the Forest Service has decided to do wildfire mitigation in this area. Any negative impacts of the proposed treatments certainly have to be weighed against the potential awful outcome of a large burn in this area of many homes, recreational areas, and wildlife habitat. Hopefully the treatments will be adequate in preventing such an outcome.

My understanding is that you have requested Emergency Authorization from the Secretary due to the high risk of wildfire in the proposed area. It was difficult to discern the process that was involved when you were seeking this Emergency Authorization, but it appears that if this authorization is approved there will still be an environmental analysis for the public to review. On the other hand, it also appears that we can only raise comments or objections during this 30 day window, prior to such an analysis. This makes it difficult for me, as a layperson with regard to such endeavors, to be able to weigh the risks and benefits of the project. As a result, any comments/objections that I make here will likely be contingent upon further information.

My comments are as follows:

1. Logging activities usually introduce or worsen noxious weed problems, and the area of Owl Creek is already experiencing problems with Oxeye Daisy, Canada Thistle, Spotted Knapweed, and more. Please allow for adequate noxious weed mitigation in your budget.
2. If endangered or sensitive species will be significantly affected by the proposed activities, please allow for appropriate adjustments to the plan based on the reports from the multidisciplinary team of wildlife and fisheries biologists.
3. It appears no logging will take place within 50 feet of Holland Lake. If I am not correct about this, please consider leaving adequate trees along the lakeshore to continue to keep structures such as Holland Lake Lodge, campsites, and the recreational residence cabins hidden from view from the lake itself.
4. If possible, please try to limit activities near recreational sites to be performed during seasons in which these sites are minimally used (late Fall, Winter, early Spring).
5. Hopefully the logging activities will be followed by restoration of current thoroughfare roads (such as Owl Creek Rd and Holland Lake Rd) to at least their current state or an improved state for travel.

Again, thank you for the ability to comment on this project and thank you for doing your best to balance the needs of many people along with the plants and animals of the forests, streams and lakes as you make your plans.

Sincerely,

Christopher Corsi

