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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a 45 year resident, 77 years old in the Gallatin Valley. I am a conservationist, a hiker, skier, fisher, hunter, photographer and have recreated quietly all over the State of Montana over the years. I have concerns with your plan and your lack of consideration of the new warmer climate that is upon us NOW.

I oppose the construction of roads, including temporary roads built with vegetation treatments, timber harvests, thinning forests, and fire breaks. We need to reduce motors in forests to allow us hikers and cross-country skiers to enjoy the beautiful forest quietness, to hear the birds, insects and the breeze blowing through the trees.

I support the recommended wilderness areas: Great Burn, Bob Marshall Wilderness Addition, Sliderock, and Selway-Bitterroot Addition and recommendations that maintains existing wilderness characteristics and allowing natural succession, wildfire, avalanches, insects, and disease to happen. You should be banning mechanized and motorized activities and permanently retiring grazing allotments from wilderness areas and wilderness study areas.

Wildland fires are ecologically necessary and inevitable, but losses of life and property in urban fire disasters require new fire management policies and practices for today's climate conditions.

Top priority needs to be conservation of natural resources such as water, wildlife, and native plants on public land, and not subsidizing commercial grazing operations. Please stop the proposed water project.

Westslope cutthroat trout should be added to the Species of Conservation Concern list due to lack of distribution of high genetic integrity and the potential for increased distribution resulting from restoration.

Many more streams and rivers need to be partially protected as Wild and Scenic.

Thank you.