

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/6/2024 8:34:53 PM

First name: Anna

Last name: Wolfe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: While I understand the risk of wildfire and appreciate efforts to mitigate risks, I have concerns regarding the short and long-term consequences of thinning the forest on the Bannock Trail between Cooke City and Silver Gate. Most significantly, multiple Bannock residents have experienced serious mudslides in 2010 and again this year. Thanks to the forest, the slides were slowed and did not cause major damage. Removing trees in this area will exacerbate erosion-related problems in this area. Additionally, several residents have shared resources describing this forest as fire-resilient due to the thickness of the canopy, which allows for moss to flourish, retaining moisture even during relatively dry years. If these sources are correct, thinning the trees will dry out a naturally moist region, with multiple ecological effects. Finally, the people who live in this area come here for the nature-- the destruction of wildlife habitats and displacement of animals is not a minor issue. Please take these concerns seriously and preserve our wilderness.