

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/6/2024 8:51:06 PM

First name: Mike

Last name: Menzel

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To USDA Gallatin Forest Supervisor

I have had a cabin in Silver Gate since 1989 that is 100 meters north of the Bannock Trail and 3/4 mile east of the Yellowstone boundary. Selectively thinning a forest is in some instances beneficial to reduce fire risk to dwellings but there is ample evidence that wet north facing trees have a natural ability to suppress fire hazards. Also the Bannock Trail is a proven corridor for wildlife like bears, moose, and wolves. We enjoy observing large numbers of moose that use the abundance of willows for food and the forest for protection of the adults and their young. While I am in favor of careful proven steps to protect dwellings I request that you perform an EIS and address the following.

1. Justify the scope of timber removal and demonstrate the microclimate zones that tend to suppress fires and will not be disturbed.
2. Include reasons why some area's of our community will benefit from thinning and reasons why other areas do not meet the criteria for thinning.
3. Demonstrate that a thorough study will be done to assure that wildlife and their habitat will benefit from forest thinning and which wildlife and habitat would be negatively impacted.

I also ask that you extend the comment period to 90 days.

Sincerely,

Mike Menzel