

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/12/2024 5:02:53 PM

First name: Karen

Last name: Bachrach

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to offer my opinion on the Cooke City Fuels and Forest Health Proposal #57361.

As a property owner in the valley, I am very much opposed to the project. While I appreciate the intent to "sanitize" the specified areas to reduce fire risk, I am concerned that the law of unintended consequences will kick in and the project will actually increase the fire risk. Everything I have read suggests that the scientific community's views of sanitizing's effectiveness have changed in recent years, so I believe the USFS should table this project-at least for now.

And even if the project were to reduce fire risk in some small measure, I feel any gains would come at far too high a price for area residents-both human and animal. We stand to lose our stately trees and the peace and quiet that contributes to the high quality of life in the valley. We'd be left instead with degraded forests, noise pollution from the machinery, and clogged roads. On top of that, the activities described in the proposal would disturb wildlife and destroy their habitat-damage that can never be reversed.

My family has been coming to Cooke City since the late '80s. Like many, we came for the park access but stayed for the friendly community, the valley's natural beauty, and the chance to observe wildlife. During that time, we lived through the '88 fires (when our trees were lost to the backburn) and we lived through the floods. Please don't make us live through the logging years as well.