

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/12/2024 10:09:26 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a long time land owner--a member of the Index Peak Corporation--in the Colter Pass area, I have numerous concerns regarding Project #57361. Among these are 1) the potential for dangerous erosion and sedimentation along Soda Butte Creek, which has already been decades recovering from the mining activities carried out in the Cooke City area 70+ years ago; 2) the predictable increase in the spread of noxious weeds into disturbed areas by logging equipment; and 3) the unintended consequence of the proposed activities opening up wilderness bordering lands to the development of illegal roads and mechanized travel.

I also have to question your decision to "thin" trees of 6"-8" diameter when scientific review of wildfire activity has shown that larger trees will survive when crowded understory (shrubs & saplings, e.g.) is what is removed. I would also like to note that a significant percentage of the proposed area already burned heavily in the 1988 fires (at least on our property), and I do not think your short scoping period and a 30-day comment period really evaluate the existing risks adequately. PLEASE go back to the drawing board on this project. At the very least, please address the above-mentioned concerns and explain your decision to remove larger trees.