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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

My family has owned the Banded Peak Ranches, Catspaw, and Headwaters, 54,000 mostly forested acres in the Southern San Juans of Colorado for the past 4 decades. During that period we have persued selective logging, fire prevention clearing and proscribed fires, and mastication for regeneration, so we are not strangers to the timber industry, nor 'tree-huggers'. We have lost 30% of our forest to insects in the last 10 years, and are also in a fire prone area.

However, we have learned over the decades that the most important trees and forest areas to preserve for the future health of the forest are the large, 'old-growth' trees with the genetic memory that accrues over time through having survived fire, disease, insect predation. We need those trees, and they are also ecologically important for wildlife habitat and carbon sequestration. We have seen firsthand in our early logging what degradation happens to the watershed/rivers when trees above are clearcut.

Therefore, as a family we are absolutely opposed to the USFS clearcutting any more public lands! These lands should be in trust for future generations to benefit from and enjoy, and are of far more value longterm than the pulp which would be sold today.

Please stop clearcutting any and all of our old-growth forests today.

With respect and gratitude for your consideration,

Lavinia