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Comments: This project area is a special limited quota elk hunt area that is a refuge for elk during the hunting season. Having hunted this for many years, elk use particular habitat during the busy general season as refuge when they get pushed by hunters. This is crucial security habitat them to have some refuge.

Additionally, I have witnessed several great gray owls, pygmy owls, pine martens that depend on these dark mature old growth forests within this project area.

The density of limber and white bark pines is very unique in this area and should be protected.

With the massive loss of forested habitat due to the adjacent Roosevelt Fire, this habitat is even more important to protect.

Please do not use a categorical exclusion. Instead do a full NEPA analysis with an EA or EIS so the public has an opportunity to understand the consequences of this project.