Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/23/2025 1:19:10 PM First name: Sam Last name: Bracken Organization:

Title:

Comments: I'm writing this message in support of the proposed West Reservoir Project. As a resident of Columbia Falls I think the Forest Service needs to be doing everything they can to reduce fuel loading in these areas along the reservoir, especially as recreational use continues to increase and fire seasons become more severe. Some of the areas within this project have become nutritional deserts as a result of past wildfires and the lack of subsequent forest improvement, which I'm happy to see are proposed in these same areas. These measures should include pre-commercial thinning of overly dense sapling sized stands, mastication where practical, piling and burning, as well as timber harvests followed by planting or natural regeneration. Prescribed burning is also an excellent tool to be used to accomplish a multitude of goals, and I'm very happy to see that over 5,000 acres of Rx fire is proposed in this area. This not only reduces forest fuel loading within the acres treated but increases forage for wildlife populations and returns a much needed ecological facet to the landscape that humans have nearly eradicated. Lastly, thank you for continuing to keep these roads in usable shape for public use and I fully support their continued maintenance and improvement.