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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please accept my comments about the East Valley Fuels Reduction Project:

This "fuels reduction" logging and thinning will affect key wildlife habitats and favored recreation spots along the Swan Range.

Your proposed logging "would result in six new even age openings over 40 acres," the maximum recommended by the National Forest Management Act. This would create large zero-age areas devoid of trees, unacceptably reduce essential hiding cover for wildlife, and create big eyesores on this scenic backdrop to the Flathead Valley!

Your intention to use a Categorical Exclusion from the preparation of an Environmental Assessment means "this would be the only comment period for the project," even though your staff has yet to conduct "an analysis of potential environmental effects in the coming months." Moreover, you would not formally allow the public to Object to any portion of the project. Please instead prepare an EA, if not an Environmental Impact Statement, under normal procedures, so the public can read and comment on the environmental effects that you find and try to reach some common ground where there are disagreements.

Sharon Lamar