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Comments: I am hoping there will be better execution than what we saw with the recent and adjacent Kirk Hill/Moser Creek area fuels reduction project.

That project included closures of forest to public use, in one of the most popular recreation areas in the state. The closures impacted hunters, hikers, skiers, bikers, and other forest users for long time periods. I hope the public access limitations for this new project are minimized and tailored to allow as much public use as possible during high-demand seasons.

One of the stated benefits of the fuel-reduction cuts was reducing possibility of post-fire runoff and siltation that could affect water quality. But miles of new logging roads bulldozed in behind the Kirk Hill area created a new source of silt and mud runoff. Weeks of helicopter flights were annoying to forest users and neighbors, but the inconvenience of helicopter logging is likely better than adding more roads - no matter how temporary. The area between Cottonwood and Hyalite is excellent wildlife habitat, and maintaining the mostly roadless character would help maintain that habitat.

The poorly planned cutting boundaries in the Kirk Hill/Moser area produced semi-permanent "tiger stripe" clearcuts visible from the Gallatin Valley, reminiscent of the "Diaper Line" clearcuts that visually scarred the Bozeman Creek drainage for decades. Certainly, the forest service and/or contractors can do better! Simply changing the alignment of the 'stripes' would have solved that issue.

Many acres of stressed or dying trees have been noted in the logged area. Is that a symptom of the fuels-reduction treatment, or is it unrelated? If the tree decline is related to work performed, then a strategy to reduce that effect should be implemented.

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this project.