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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Project Managers,

Thank you for taking the time to read the comments that I am submitting.

As my husband and I have a cabin in the Cooke City/Silver Gate community, I have a vested interest in submitting comments about this project.

The project boundaries do not reflect the care and consideration for the natural processes that have sustained this ecosystem for well over a century.

The project has defined marking older, larger trees for protection from logging. This undermines the importance of these forests in their entirety. Leaving vast sections of logged areas around old growth trees will impede their ability to survive wind storms, (no thick wall of trees as a windbreak). dried out soil from too much sun entering the landscape & the beneficial relationship between the various sized trees.

Why do we need to prohibit logging here?

Scientific evidence has shown that older trees are treasure troves of life. They draw up and then expel moisture into the surrounding air like a sort of biotic pump, essentially creating their own weather systems, filtering water (national forests provide a fifth of the US's clean water supply) and offering homes in craggy tree hollows to a panoply of wildlife.

As they grow, the trees' bark thickens, making them and the surrounding forest more resistant to fire. A network of fungi helps spread a bounty of water and nutrients to the forest community. When these trees, having mopped up huge doses of carbon dioxide, eventually die, the toppled trunks regenerate soil, nourishing trees and animals around them.

It's as if, using the approach that is described in the project plans, the larger, mature trees are set up for untenable survival. When a mature tree is stressed as described above, and the habitat is destroyed, the tree will likely die. 80% of the stored carbon from that tree, is lost into the atmosphere.

The cooling effect that currently occurs every summer season in this mountain region, will undoubtedly be gone. Ultimately, between the heating effect from lost trees and ongoing tree losses, this mountain region would now have even more wildfire risk.

It is time to step away from this project OR greatly reduce the area of the project with only minimal disturbance to any of the ecosystems that are designated on the maps.

Sincerely, Kathryn Iverson