

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/1/2025 3:27:35 PM

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Comments: This project is ill advised. There is no reason to log in a roadless area. Bradley et al 2016 made it clear that intact forests without logging burn less intensely than logged areas. Lindenmayer 2024 agreed and went further to say that logging exacerbates fire. Logging and opening the canopy, as this project proposes, dries out the forest and opens it up to wind. Check Atchley et al 2021 showed not only that forest service models are inaccurate to predict fire behavior because they do not include atmospheric dynamics. Their models showed that openings in the canopy can increase fire size and speed. Why would you want to speed up fires near homes in the the South Cottonwood area?

I have hiked, run and biked in this area. It is beautiful and filled with wildlife. Please do not risk the area biodiversity for a misguided attempt to reduce fire. As Jack Cohen has repeatedly proven, reducing fuels in the forest has little if nothing to do about protecting homes from fire. It is not a fuel problem it is a home ignition problem that causes communities to burn. The sooner the forest service stops this madness and begins to educate people about the inevitability of fire and how to protect their homes, the sooner communities will be protected.

This proposed project area is currently being considered in congress to become Wilderness under The Northern Rockies Ecosystem Protection Act (NREPA). It must remain roadless and the Forest Service is legally bound to manage it to eventually become part of the Wilderness system.

Please stop the project, educate folks about fire and how to protect their homes by concentrating on the 100 feet around their homes and home materials and structure.

Protect this roadless area for consideration as Wilderness as you are mandated to do.

Thanks for considering these comments.