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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am strongly opposed to pre-burning the forests in Cottonwood, Fox Meadow, Hyalite. There is no proof this prevents additional fires in this area. I have seen many pre-burn pictures in the Western US that get followed with a natural fire spread by drought, wind, and especially the lack of old growth forest trees. Science proves this and you are not using SCIENCE. You are cowtowing to the Trump government, who know nothing about science and fires. Trump thinks raking a forest will prevent a fire. Outrageous including all those he hired. You are ignoring native wildlife and wildlife habitat and wildlife migration and normal pathways to find food, security, the opposite sex, deal with natural weather events. We have endangered species also.

You are ignoring the federal government's desire to protect Old Growth Forests all over the US. They keep carbon from going into the atmosphere, which damages our air, our health, and the lives of all beings on Earth. Old Growth Forests have many other attributes like strength genes, large round size, tall - length.

I've enjoyed hikes and picnics in Cottonwood and Fox Meadow over the 48 years I've lived in Gallatin County, just to admire the beauty, not destroy the road, trail, shrubs, plants, view. But this is what you want to do. This acreage should be Wilderness and proposals have been made to do so like NREPA, and in Congress for approval process.

You also think you are protecting Bozeman's water supply, but you are doing worse as logging for fire prevention requires roads, trails, burning, allows debris in the creeks and streams. Pure ugliness and ignorant of our beautiful, pristine EARTH that we are lucky to live nearby.

I remember when the Forest Service worked with us people neighbors to eliminate the ugly "Diaper line" of logged sections in the view of Bozeman residents and tourists. Now you want to take away a pristine wilderness-like landscape because you are scared of a fire. Instead you need to spend money and education on private homes built too close to all the forest areas bordering Bozeman. Fires are typically started by humans with their homes, vehicles and other electric equipment.

Forests naturally need to burn sometime in their lifetimes and especially as we have Climate Warming in process all over the US, and especially in the Rocky Mountains where we have more drought, human caused fires, heat, vehicles, glaciers are melting, streams are drying up.

Please stop this mind-boggling project and spend your money and time if you have the staff, since Trump/Musk have fired so many federal workers all over the US and more are planned at the same time, and Trump wants to log all the Forests. You don't have adequate fire fighters (except you can use Senator Sheehy's massive contracts with the US for his own wealth, and kudos from Trump). Put yourselves in the feet and wings and fins of all the native wildlife and insects and algae that will be murdered by your pre-burning and road building, and debris in the waterways. Educate the home owners and the vehicle and other motor users about fire protection and stop the extinction of our native critters of all types. STOP THIS PROJECT!