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First name: Grant

Last name: Barnard

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please reconsider your planned "forest mitigation" efforts in the Hyalite/South Cottonwood area south of Bozeman. Thinning forests exposes the forest floor to more intense sunshine which dries out the vegetation faster and more extremely, producing more fire danger than a real forest.

Controlled burns done judiciously have a more positive effect on wildfire protection. Do it judiciously and save money and keep the forest.

And promote more active fire prevention on nearby private property: everyone in the WUI needs to be proactive and the USFS can help.

These areas are high public recreation areas. Mitigation should include ongoing, assertive education plus rules like no campfires, no smoking at all, any time from May 1 to Oct. 30! Why take a chance?

Thank you.