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Comments: I'm writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed Hyalite Cottonwood Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project (#67535). Increasingly, research suggests that this type of logging will not reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire as intended. In fact, by opening the forest canopy and encouraging undergrowth, such activity could elevate the fire danger rather than diminish it.

It appears this proposal may be less about fire prevention and more about gaining access to a mature, ecologically valuable forest for commercial purposes. The long-lasting scars left by past logging operations in the canyons along the southern edge of the Gallatin Valley stand as clear evidence of the irreversible impact these projects can have on the landscape.

I believe this area should be preserved in its natural state for future generations to experience true wilderness. Even if fire eventually affects this forest, the value of letting it remain wild far outweighs the short-term rationale for logging. Let's choose the wilderness approach-not just for now, but for the legacy we leave behind.