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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am a resident of Bozeman, MT, and I am writing to comment on the Hyalite Cottonwood Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project #67535.

I emphatically oppose this project and my detailed comments are below:

1. The Forest Service claims there is an emergency but has not provided any underlying or factual evidence to justify any such conclusion that a fire emergency exists.
2. Absent any investigation or evidence of a fire emergency Project #67535 will without doubt lead to protracted litigation, an unnecessary waste of taxpayer funds, all for a poorly designed and scientifically unsound project.
3. Sedimentation effects on Westslope Cutthroat trout are unacceptable. There are also Montana Grayling in Hyalite Creek, which is another fish species that is endangered or threatened. Because of the presence of these two fish, and the sedimentation and other deleterious effects on reproduction of West Slope Cutthroat Trout and Montana Grayling this project should be immediately cancelled and withdrawn.
4. Absurdly enough the Forest Service justifies Project #67535 by stating that excess sedimentation, and its harmful effect on Westslope Cutthroat Trout and Grayling, as well as on aquatic insects, is justifiable because there might be sedimentation in the future. This is flawed logic and is inadequate to support the extreme potential for harm carried out under this project. The Cost/Benefit equation is dramatically unfavorable, and has not received adequate investigation to support the conclusion that these harms are acceptable.
5. The Forest Service admits the project will increase the invasive specie load in the project area and could lead to the introduction of more invasive species -- with a consequent decline in forest health. This risk is unacceptable and is destined to make it MORE LIKELY that a fire would break out or spread within the Hyalite Forest.
6. For all of the above reasons PROJECT #67535 SHOULD BE CANCELLED.