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Comments: I've written a couple of notes to Amanda; and in her absence, sent one to Erin - thank you.

With all due respect, the public can not submit comment regarding this plan if they do not know about it.

Not one person we 've met while recreating in the Hyalite/Cottonwood areas knew about this project. Each and every person was stunned and upset; They could not believe that they'd not heard anything about this plan.

Most believe that the comment period should be extended after notification is widely shared - i.e., posted at each trail head, etc. There isn't a single hint of notification anywhere - people, sadly, no longer read the newspaper.

Is this comment period simply a cursory exercise that the Service hopes to get over with sooner than later? I say that with no disrespect; but, rather with a great deal of disappointment: We are all quite frustrated by what appears to be or will likely be the irrelevance of our involvement. I understand Amanda was on leave for a week (we wish her well). She was the public's contact and yet, emails were not automatically forwarded to her during this critical time.

Most of us who live near or enjoy this area - who love this "last best place" which will not last at this rate, question this need to protect the Hyalite watershed: The watershed is surrounded by forest. These 8,000 acres of old growth forest and valuable habitat spread away from Haylite into the Cottonwood drainage, which is not a water source.

The stripping of this land will do little to protect anything. A hot ember on a high wind travels far.. what about the all surrounding forest in all other directions? This public land should be protected, it's destruction not profited from. This acreage will not recover in our lifetime - nor in the lifetimes of our children or grandchildren. The West side/north-facing mountain above Hyalites shore, clear cut over 60 years ago, has grown very little since. The mountain south of Wheeler in Cottonwood canyon that was clear cut over 30 years ago and remains barren; scarred by roads ..

A faucet is turned on; a forest, trampled on. Let us be stewards and stave off the profiteers.

Most sincerely,

K. Voulkos