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Comments: I oppose the Forest Service actions for any active forest management in the South Cottonwood drainage. The proposed management actions won't prevent large wildfires under most fire weather conditions. Removing trees will result in a significant increase of solar radiation reaching beneath the current primarily closed canopies. Opening the forest canopy results in an earlier snowpack melt and a subsequent early decrease of both soil moisture and fine fuels moisture. The decreasing moistures combined with our ever rising summer temperatures would actually make the forest more prone to fire and INCREASE the probability of large wildfires.

I urge the Forest Service to abandon the proposed management techniques as they would decrease the health of the forest trees and forest soils. The proposed fuels reductions would also degrade the wildlife habitats and the recreational qualities of the South Cottonwood drainage.