

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/31/2025 1:33:31 AM

First name: Kristine

Last name: Ellingsen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Officials,

I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed logging of Cottonwood Canyon for the putative reason of reducing "hazardous" forest fuels and protecting Hyalite Canyon. Science gives us a new understanding of fire ecology: older trees left standing help PREVENT extreme damage from forest fires.

In 2021, I hiked to Sperry Chalet in Glacier National Park and saw, first hand, the trees along the trail that had withstood the Sprague Fire in 2017. These were older trees with substantial and thick bark . . . bark that had protected the trees from incineration.

Logging that proclaims to reduce hazardous forest fuels is a cynical ploy to give wholesale logging a good name. Let's use science instead of industry pressure to guide our care of forests. Please don't log Cottonwood Canyon. Both Cottonwood and Hyalite Canyons will be better protected from fire by unlogged stands of existing trees.