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Comments: Comments on the Hyalite fuels reduction project: The undisturbed forests around Bozeman are cherished and loved by so many people. It would be a mistake to change the wild and untouched nature of these areas. And It would be a huge mistake to go in an log and cut the last areas of old growth. Old growth forest should be protected. I've seen the marked trees for "thinning" and basically it removes the forest and the species that live in them and exposes them to solar heat, and hot air making them dry and crispy for fire. The forest canopy makes cool air, holds and protects soil and organisms from sun. The trees and forest are natural air filters, cleaning and purifying the air. To have acres and acres of natural air purifiers surrounding us!: You cant buy that.

There are too many unknowns in the project. Inadequate surveying, not enough study and research of organisms and species and the effects of treatments. I've worked in the forest service for a season and there is never enough time to thoroughly survey an area. What are the organisms in the area and what will toxic chemicals from weed treatment do to them?

Keeping scenic integrity has been a huge problem. Everyday I look out on the Hyalite foothills and see triangles, lines, and weird shapes. The Kirkhill project produced stripes. Why stripes?

The focus should be understanding our forest ecosystem and working to protect it for future generations.