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First name: Hunter

Last name: Graham

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

My name is Hunter Graham and I am a full-time, year-round resident of Cooke City, MT. I grew up here fishing, hunting, and recreating in the expansive, vibrant forests that surround the area.

I am concerned that the widespread and long term impact of this project will have negative effects on the quality of life here and there is no guarantee (or actual evidence) that the treatments proposed will protect our area in the event of a catastrophic wildfire event.

The scope of the project is too large for most folks to wrap their minds around, and seems to lack focus. I am concerned about the Whitebark Pine, and the fact that even a little disturbance can disrupt an already healthy Whitebark/Subalpine Fir forest.

In general, I am concerned about the visual impact of a logging operation will have on the views around here. This Valley's economy is entirely based on our natural beauty and abundant resources.

As an avid upland game bird hunter, I am concerned that mostly removing the regenerating Lodgepole pine forest east of town (that burned in '88) will have a negative effect on the already struggling Ruffed Grouse population that use the Re-Gen as a sanctuary. Moose also use this area frequently, and any moose biologist will argue that those high elevation Re-Gen areas are teeming with moose in the summer months. I literally watch animals for a living, as do many other people here, and disrupting animal habitat is bad business.

I fully support clearing around electrical lines and service roads that may provide access to fire crews and emergency crews.