

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/9/2025 9:37:29 PM

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Comments: I am strongly opposed to the proposed Pikes Peak Vegetation Management and Restoration Project. This project does not align with best available science on wildfire mitigation or ecosystem health.

Industrial-scale logging and burning across 194,000 acres-including mature and old-growth forests, high-elevation ecosystems, and Roadless Areas-will fragment habitat, increase erosion, and degrade critical habitat for threatened species such as the Mexican Spotted Owl, Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and Canada lynx. The plan also authorizes widespread herbicide use and new road construction with significant environmental impacts.

Current research shows that community protection from wildfire is most effectively achieved through home hardening and creating defensible space within 100 feet of structures-not through large-scale logging far from communities. Redirecting funding toward proven, community-level mitigation efforts would better protect public safety while preserving Colorado's forests.

I respectfully request that the Forest Service withdraw this project and pursue wildfire resilience strategies grounded in science, ecological integrity, and community protection.

Thank you for considering this comment.