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Comments: I am very disturbed about this proposal to 'deforest' our wonderful mountain forests, Old growth trees, and clear cutting to supposedly mitigate wildfire hazards. When I am hiking in the forests, it is always 10 degrees cooler, and much more moist than when I enter a treeless area. The temps rise 10 to 15 degrees and the ground is extremely dry in the open areas. This will cause much higher problems in trying to control a wildfire. When a fire breaks out, the heat from the fire intensifies the winds, actually it causes its own winds from the rising heat. And the clear cutting, thinning and logging will create open areas and there will be no way to control a fire when that happens. Have you forgotten the raging winds that caused the flames from the Boulder fire a couple years ago? There were no trees on that slope to stop or slow down the fires that burned so many homes. A full mature forest will, and does, slow down the progress of a wildfire. Along with much more moist areas on the ground instead of opening up the forest to the searing heat of the sun in the summer to the point of everything on the ground is tinder for the fire to increase rapidly. Also, what is up with this 'to provide more recreational opportunities' to the public? There is no need to increase human access into the forest. There is plenty of opportunities now for people to hike, camp, build a campfire when they shouldn't, harass wildlife, shooting where there shouldn't be any target practice, off roading where there shouldn't be going off road. People are people and they do things that shouldn't be done just for the fun of it. We all know this happens and yet, the proposal says 'provide more recreational opportunities'. I feel that the forest service is attempting to create its own disaster soon. The forest are magnificent and that is why many people enjoy living here in Colorado. And there are many of us that respect everything about the wilderness. To leave it alone, and let the wild stay in the wilderness. Out tax monies would be better spent on fire mitigating around homes in the forest and mountains with the help from our government. I feel this proposal is mostly politically induced for extensive logging that will eventually disrupt our wildlife, cause major riparian damage to our slopes and watersheds that will not recover for decades. I urge everyone involved with this proposal to talk to others, friends and families, and look deep into your own conscience and to what is being proposed and what are the consequences of your actions! Please consider the consequences of your actions before it is too late.
Thank you for your time if you read this,
Rick