Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/10/2025 7:51:40 PM
First name: Jules
Last name: Graeve
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear U.S. Forest Service Decision-Makers,

I am writing to formally oppose the proposed Pike's Peak Vegetation Management Project due to its far-reaching and detrimental impacts on irreplaceable natural resources, roadless areas, and wildlife protected under the Endangered Species Act.

This project, as currently proposed, threatens four Inventoried Roadless Areas and the habitat of three wildlife species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. These lands and species represent an irreplaceable part of our public heritage and must not be sacrificed for short-term or overly broad management goals.

I insist on the following:

1. Full Protection of Threatened Species and Their Habitat
The project must remain entirely out of all occupied and potential habitat for listed threatened species, especially designated critical habitat. Federal law requires that federal actions avoid adverse modification of critical habitat, not merely reduce risk. The Forest Service must ensure that no logging, mechanical thinning, or associated disturbance occurs in these sensitive areas.

2. No Logging or Road Construction in Roadless Areas
Inventoried Roadless Areas were set aside specifically to preserve ecological integrity, solitude, wildlife habitat, and natural processes. I strongly oppose any logging, road construction, or mechanized activity within roadless areas. Development in these areas would permanently degrade forest character and undermine the intent of federal roadless protections.

3. Protection of High-Altitude Forests
Spruce-fir forest, bristlecone pine, limber pine, and lodgepole pine ecosystems are slow-growing, climate-sensitive, and ecologically vital. These forests should not be logged. High-elevation forests play a critical role in watershed protection, carbon storage, wildlife habitat, and climate resilience. Disturbing them will cause long-term ecological damage that cannot realistically be reversed.

4. A Smaller, Targeted Alternative Focused on Infrastructure Protection
Rather than a large, landscape-scale project, I urge the Forest Service to consider a much smaller alternative addressing only immediate risks to existing infrastructure and human safety. Treatment should be limited to areas near communities, powerlines, and other built structures where there is a clear and defensible need. Broad forest manipulation in backcountry and sensitive ecosystems is not justified.

5. Meaningful Public Involvement After Impact Analysis
The public must be allowed to review and comment on the project after the environmental analysis is completed. Transparency and public participation are cornerstones of responsible land management. Any decision made without allowing public review of environmental findings undermines trust and violates the spirit of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Pike's Peak is a nationally treasured landscape. This project, as proposed, poses excessive and unnecessary harm to wildlife, roadless forests, and sensitive high-elevation ecosystems. I urge the Forest Service to significantly revise or withdraw this proposal and adopt a more cautious, targeted, and ecologically responsible

approach.

Thank you for considering my comments and for your responsibility in protecting our public lands.

Sincerely,
Jules Graeve