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Comments: I strongly oppose the U.S. Forest Service's plan to create the largest logging project ever attempted in Colorado. The proposal calls for logging and burning more than 194,000 acres (about 303 square miles) of public land.

The project is being advanced under a contentious "emergency" authority that lets the Forest Service bypass or shorten several standard approval steps in order to boost timber output.

The deliberate choice to have a shortened comment period in the middle of the holiday season and a statewide media blackout shows that officials know there is opposition to desecrating our public forests.

Key impacts include:

Large-scale clear-cutting and removal of mature trees, which would damage every forest type, from high-elevation subalpine spruce-fir stands to ancient bristlecone pine groves.

Harm to three species listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act: the Mexican spotted owl, Preble's meadow jumping mouse, and the lynx, due to loss or degradation of critical habitat.

Threats to four designated Roadless Areas, with plans to log and burn an additional 13,300 acres.

Construction of an unknown length of new roads, leading to habitat fragmentation, soil compaction, and increased erosion that would affect watershed health.

Application of toxic herbicides over nearly a quarter-million acres.