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Comments: I want to thank District Ranger Rob Davies for requesting public input on the project, even though it is no longer required by law. Since public input is so valuable, please consider offering a public meeting and site tours.

The EA should provide justification for the commercial treatments proposed in inventoried roadless areas (IRAs). Given that roads will be built for these treatments, I expect that the EA describe in detail how all treatments in IRAs will maintain or improve roadless area characteristics. I value these characteristics highly. I urge you to follow current Flathead National Forest Plan with regard to the proposed whitebark pine restoration in recommended wilderness utilize hand tools and be conducted via foot and stock access only.

The EA needs to describe how the proposed project will, or will not, impact the "outstanding remarkable values" associated with the affected stretch of the Middle Fork of the Flathead: fisheries, geology, water quality, wildlife, recreation, scenery, history, and ethnography. How will these values be protected?

The majority of the project is within inventoried roadless areas (IRAs), the Slippery Bill-Puzzle Recommended Wilderness Area, or the Middle Fork of the Flathead Wild and Scenic River Corridor. The entire project area is important for wildlife and outdoor recreation