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Comments: It is critical that you take the Big Picture view of the South Tobacco Roots Project because it is part of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) and the Yellowstone to Yukon Conservation Initiative and deserves special exception to Trump's "emergency."

The GYE is exceptional and unique in that it is one of the largest "nearly" intact temperate-zone ecosystems on Earth with its diversity and natural wealth. It is only "nearly" intact because of multiple human activities that impact it directly and indirectly. What word will be inserted for "nearly" when we continue to impair and fragment habitat and permanently or temporarily block migration corridors vital to the health of the GYE?

Your Biological Assessment states that this project "may affect" the threatened grizzly bear, the threatened Canada lynx, the threatened North American wolverine, the threatened whitebark pine, the threatened monarch butterfly, and the proposed endangered Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee. Can this ecosystem afford the risk that this project "may affect" these threatened and endangered critters? In your gut, what does the number of flora and fauna on this list tell you?

The abundance, distribution, health and recovery of these animal species depend on their interactions with each other and on the quality of their habitats. This project will be just one of many in the GYE that will be why the text will need to be changed from "nearly intact ecosystem" to severely disrupted and unhealthy ecosystem" because it is mainly being implemented to cut timber for economic reason, NOT mainly ecological.

We all know our national forests are multiple use lands where timber is cut for economic reasons and we try to mimic the natural fire cycle we have interfered with over the years. But I trust that you - as stewards of our public lands - would not have allowed today's conditions to become an emergency. We know what's going on. Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem and should be allowed to burn if it does not risk actively used buildings. Those who choose to live outside of urban areas where fire is becoming an increasing risk due to mainly human activities, fire hardening to reduce ember and direct fire threats of used buildings should be a top funding priority. When you burn, please proactively look for animals that might have climbed trees to escape the intrusion and active nests in trees and snags.

We all have a stake in preserving and protecting the GYE. Please do what you can to speak up against this plan, and if you'll risk losing your job in doing so, at least alter it to eliminate the impacts on what makes this place so special.