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Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed logging of approximately 4,000 acres in the Gardiner and Jardine areas of Montana. As a frequent visitor to this region over the past 10 to 12 years, I have come to deeply appreciate its unique landscape, wildlife, and the role it plays in preserving the natural character of the state. The areas surrounding Gardiner, Montana and Jardine, Montana serve as an important gateway and ecological buffer to Yellowstone National Park, offering an irreplaceable combination of scenic beauty and environmental significance.

Beyond its ecological importance, this region holds meaningful therapeutic value. We have brought U.S. veterans to this area for PTSD recovery experiences, where the quiet, undisturbed environment plays a critical role in their ability to decompress, reflect, and heal. The tranquility and natural beauty of this landscape cannot be replicated, and large-scale logging would significantly disrupt the peace and solitude that make it so beneficial for those coping with the lasting effects of service-related trauma.

Large-scale logging in this area risks long-term environmental damage, including habitat fragmentation, soil erosion, and degradation of water quality. It also threatens the very qualities that make this region a place of restoration for both residents and visitors. I respectfully urge the state to reconsider or halt this logging proposal and instead pursue conservation-minded land management practices that preserve the integrity, serenity, and long-term value of this remarkable landscape. Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.