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Comments: I am seriously concerned about the impact of "glading" in a primary lynx habitat by Telluride Ski Resort's Improvement Project. Here are my concerns.

1 ) The public has not been given enough information about:

a. where logging equipment would travel, where logs would be processed, how soil damage would be prevented, how leftover slash would be managed, or whether newly cleared areas would become unofficial ski runs.

2 ) Areas cleared for fuel reduction would likely attract skiers because open glades are easier to ski through. This would further deteriorate lynx habitat.

3) The analysis assumes forests in treated areas will naturally grow back and continue functioning as wildlife habitat, but maintaining ski glades would require repeatedly removing young trees to keep runs open.

4) Ski traffic and heavy logging equipment could compact snow and soil, making it harder for trees to regrow.

5) At high elevations, forests regenerate slowly, especially for species like Engelmann spruce and subalpine fir.

6) Even if trees regrow, it could take decades before they provide the dense cover needed by snowshoe hare and Canada lynx.

7) Removing trees and understory vegetation reduces the dense horizontal cover that snowshoe hares rely on for protection from predators.

8) Because lynx depend heavily on snowshoe hares for food, reducing hare habitat also harms lynx habitat.

9) Scientific guidance from the Interagency Lynx Biology Team states that dense understory vegetation and high stem density are critical for supporting snowshoe hare and lynx populations.