Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/11/2026 5:37:49 PM
First name: Douglas
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: r District Ranger Hansen,
The Chalk Buttes are a special part of the Custer Gallatin National Forest, and the only administratively protected area on the Sioux Ranger District. Given the Butte's special status as a Backcountry Management Area, it is important that this project enhance, and not detract from, the unique backcountry character of the Chalk Buttes.
I am supportive of the non-commercial thinning and prescribed fire elements of the project, but I am concerned that the significant amount of commercial logging, and the associated 4.5 miles of temporary road construction, will have significant, negative impact on the undeveloped character and ecosystem integrity of the Chalk Buttes. In particular, I am concerned about the spread of invasive weeds, the potential for temporary roads and improvements to administrative roads to increase unauthorized motor vehicle use, and impacts wildlife and rare plant species. To reduce these impacts, commercial harvest units should be limited to the bare minimum of what is necessary to achieve ecological restoration goals. Temporary roads should likewise be limited, and constructed in a manner such that they can be fully obliterated immediately following the completion of commercial harvest.
The Chalk Buttes currently have few noxious weeds due to the minimal amount of roads and lack of trails in this area. To limit the spread of invasive weeds following this project, the Forest Service should require multi-year weed treatment and monitoring as part of any commercial timber contract(s) associated with this project. The final EA should also include a noxious weed monitoring plan.
Sincerely,
Douglas Modrow