

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/2/2026 12:42:14 AM

First name: Alexia

Last name: Cochrane

Organization:

Title:

Comments: My sister has lived in Gardiner area for the past 45 years, so I've spent a lot of time there. I'm a retired Botanist/Ecologist with USFS and BLM, Montana and Idaho, and have worked on many EAs and EISs throughout my career, including timber sales, Rx fire, and forest habitat restoration.

I think you have a good plan for insect and disease control, whitebark pine restoration, aspen enhancement, and WUI fuel reduction.

The proposed clearcuts are problematic. As you know, clearcuts don't emulate stand-replacing fire, even though you propose leaving 6-10 trees per acre. Can you dial back on the clearcuts? It's good to see that the majority of them are not adjacent to the main roads - but for those that are, can you leave buffers of trees along the roads, to maintain shade and visual integrity?

And how about dialing back on new road construction? That much ground disturbance is really detrimental to ecological integrity in those dry forest habitat types. And you present very little justification for them, especially considering T & E species.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.