

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/9/2025 6:00:00 AM

First name: Tom

Last name: Nelson

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Cooke City Fuels and Forest Health Project - Objection

I would like to thank District Ranger Mike Thom for touring the Forest Service property behind my cabin (108 Bannock Trail) on 6/13/25. A neighbor arranged the tour with Mike and travelled from out of state specifically to join us. I pointed out to Mike the boulders above and on my property, the property damage from the prior 2 mudslides, the many dried up water channels above my property where the organic matter on the steep mountain side had spread out the drainage of snow and rain in the past, and prior evidence of an avalanche up the mountain side. We also saw many fallen trees that partially blocked the path of the last mudslide. I described to Mike the falling rockslide sounds that I hear most summers from my deck coming from Republic Mountain.

I very much appreciate the decision document statement on page 21: "After reviewing public comments and specialist reports, I have decided that units 37A and 37B will not be implemented at this time. Treatment of these units are of utmost concern by the immediately adjacent landowners, of which multiple comments directly referenced these units."

I request that "at this time" be deleted from the Project Plan and that Unit 37 be removed from the proposed action like Units 36 and 111.

The decision notice states that fuels reduction is beneficial because wildfires can threaten homes and infrastructure, and fuels reduction can offer greater safety and peace of mind for residents (pg. 10).

As I stated in my past comments, my risk assessment for protection of my property is much more centered on mudslides, rockslides and avalanches than fire. I would guess that the property behind my cabin has not burned in hundreds of years but there have been 2 mudslides that damaged my property (and Barrett's) in the last 15 years. Unit 37 is a very steep mountainside with an elevation gain of 350 feet and about 1/3 of the Unit has a slope of greater than 40% per the Project maps. All that organic matter up that steep mountain side provides a barrier to mud slides, rockslides, and avalanches.

The fuels that you propose to remove are specifically protecting my cabin and property and providing me safety and peace of mind.

Please remove Unit 37 entirely from the Project.

Tom Nelson