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Logging project threatens forest, views, wildlife

By Nick Davis Jun 22, 2016

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We wonder if the Bozeman hikers and bikers understand the logging proposal to be presented by the Montana Dept. of Natural Resources (DNRC) at their Central Land Office at 2273 Boot Hi Court #110, this Thursday, June 23, from 7-9 p.m.

The proposal is to create “up to 12 miles of new road” and to “extract up to six million board feet of timber, much of which is old growth Douglas fir and lodgepole pine” “for the support of common schools and other public institutions” by methods which include “thinning, clear cutting and so on.”

We believe this precious old growth forest is greatly at risk, with its population of rare and unusual animals we have seen, which include goshawks, lynx (tracks) wolverine (scat) as well as bobcat, mountain lion, moose, elk, deer, bear and so on. The DNRC will have its low bid contractor avoid nests and dens upon logging discovery, as we understand it, potentially late and dangerous to the wildlife that live and breed here.

Old growth forests are rich candidates for logging as any forester will readily admit, but the steep canyons involved in these 12 miles of new road render this project very questionable economically. The DNRC must prove that this project has a real benefit more than a bureaucrat jobs program for the DNRC and regional logging industry, at the expense of Bozeman’s last old growth forest, precious viewshed and animal population.

We hope all interested Bozeman parties will attend the DNRC meeting this Thursday to question the basic economics of this large project, versus the potential damage to this very close and priceless ecological feast at our very doorstep, which may not recover its true wildness in our

lifetimes.



Nick Davis

Bozeman