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Proposed timber sale will put wildlife at risk

By Joe Gutkoski 20 hrs ago

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The Gallatin Valley South Front from Bear Canyon west to Big Bear Creek is important elk, moose and deer wintering, calving and early spring rearing habitat. The Douglas fir mixed forest is security cover against wolf, lion and bear predation while the calves are growing good, strong legs.

Within this balanced habitat the mother elk bring their calves into nursery groups where they worry and fret over their young collectively. When the calves are a month old and growing stronger they are getting ready to travel to elevations south toward the high basins of Bear Canyon, Sourdough, Hyalite, South Cottonwood, and Big and Little Bear drainages, where lush wet meadows are waiting in the summer and fall. As early snows come, the elk turn and move back toward the Valley Front, adding up to a natural balanced and sustainable wildlife system for both prey and predator with no expense to the taxpayer.

Then comes Montana State Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC) with their plan for Limestone Creek Timber sale. The plan is to road up and cut out this important wildlife security cover and dry it up like they did two miles east in New World and Roberts Gulch, where

the finest moose habitat in the county was logged and dried up a few years ago.

There is a pack of seven wolf (last I counted) preying on this elk herd. It forms a sustained wildlife system that is fitted to the public land habitat until DNRC disrupts this fine, balanced, wildlife system.

Please contact DNRC and ask for wildlife consideration in the Gallatin Valley Front and forget th timber sale: 406-556-4507, 2272 Boothill Court Suite 110, Bozeman, 59715.

Joe Gutkoski

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