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Bozemanites need to stop logging project

By Perry Miller Jan 7, 2016

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Fellow Bozemanites: The last unspoiled wilderness on our valley edge is soon to be lost unless you speak up. The DNRC is proposing the Eagle Rock and Triple Tree areas for extensive logging in 2017, complete with logging roads scarred into the flanks of this beautiful untracked wilderness.

Public comment will happen soon (January?). Want to know what it will look like if this is allowed to happen? Go for a hike anywhere in the Mount Ellis area, and admire the clear cuts, faux forests, and abandoned roads cloaked in thistle and hound's tongue. Bozeman brags on its nearness to wildness but we've steadily tracked up or hacked down wild areas on the edge of this valley. Bear Canyon. South Cottonwood. The Bridgers. Hyalite. Has any canyon ever been so loved to death? Mount Ellis. Chestnut Mountain.

There is just one left that is minutes from Main Street. Do we need the timber loot that badly or is this place already in its highest value state? We've got endless miles of trails, and lots of place to get timber. Forever is a long time. Once it's done, it's gone.

If you are concerned I urge you to get on DNRC's local mailing list (586-5243) and share your opinion about what is the highest "value" for this State School Trust Block. This is not impossible. A few years ago the Triple Tree HOA was able to get this project stopped. Bozeman made it 150 years without logging this rugged viewscape. What say another 150?

Perry Miller

Bozeman

