

From: [Rich Jahr](#)
To: [FS-appeals-northern-regional-office](#)
Cc: gpkoebler@hotmail.com
Subject: Fwd: Middleman Project Objection Opportunity
Date: Saturday, January 30, 2021 11:29:31 AM

Dear Objection Reviewing Officer, USDA Forest Service, Northern Region; 26 Fort Missoula Road, Missoula, MT 59804;

I have recently received your notice of Opportunity to Object to the Middleman Project, and have followed the guidelines during the public comment in accordance with 218.5(a), and through previous written correspondence (Jan 28, 2020). As I have yet to receive a formal response to my comments and questions that were filed during the appropriate filing period in 2020 (see below), I respectfully: "Object to the Intermediate Harvesting relating to "Areas 6 and 7 of Grid Section 17 and 16"", and following the guidelines in 36 CFR 218.8 d.

Please know that I reiterate how appreciative we are of the past efforts by the USFS to: reduce wildfire risks; increase firefighter and public safety; and enhance the overall health of the Big Belt Mountain areas. The aspect of my Objection to Intermediate Harvesting are only referring to the areas referenced herein (as related to my prior written concerns, but not limited to):

- Lack of "specific scope" of work proposed to be done.
- No specifics on what amount of: burning, thinning, treatments, remediation, etc. regarding what is proposed that will be done; where and when it could take place, etc.
- The significant negative impact on the property values "IF" the proposed work was to proceed. The entire hillside/mountain side south of 7077, 7025, York Road (and adjacent/nearby properties on both sides east and west these properties) will be significantly impacted if any type of Intermediate Harvesting were to take place. These are the primary natural viewing perspectives from the residencies there, with the forested areas to the south/east of those properties (needing to remain as is, i.e. without human manipulation or modification) being the major contributor to the existing property values there.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide my Objection, related to Areas 6 and 7 of Grid 17 and 16.

Sincerely,

Richard T. Jahr
7077 York Road
Helena Montana
59602
Phone: 469-203-9850

* please advise if you need a separate verification of identification (Drivers license etc.)

** Mail is not delivered to above address, so any formal mailing should be sent to: 3992 Fawn Meadow Drive, Helena MT 59602

***Mr Gary Koehler is in copy, as an official member of the York Community Association

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Rich Jahr** <rtjahr3@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Jan 28, 2020 at 2:19 PM

Subject: Middleman Project comments

To: <comments-northern-helena@fs.fed.us>, <sascott@fs.fed.us>

Cc: <davido@respondwest.com>, <gpkoebler@hotmail.com>

Dear USFS,

I am formally submitting my comments to the USFS concerning the Middleman Project in response to your request for input (and have copied David Olson and Gary/Penny Koehler, of the York Community Association to share (if/ as appropriate) during the upcoming Public meeting on the Project).

We have been a resident in the York community for over 10 years, and appreciate all "*effective*" efforts at: reducing wildfire risks; increasing firefighter and public safety; and enhancing the overall health of the forests in the Big Belt Mountain area. However, despite the substantial amount of information recently provided concerning the Middleman Project, there are some aspects that are unclear to me. In particular as it **relates to Grid 17 and the area demarcated on your map with a "6" (and 7" in Grid 16)** (which is adjacent to our properties: 7077 and 7025 York road, and the hill/range to the south of same). With 12 pages of Scope, 5 pages of definitions, and numerous maps, it is not easy to decipher "what specifically will be done in certain areas", therefore I offer the following formal comments for your reply.

Specific Comments:

- What exactly is being proposed to be done concerning "**Intermediate Harvesting**" ? (relating to **areas 6 & 7 of Grid section 17 and 16**)
 - How and where will that area be accessed? What types of equipment will be used?
 - What specific types of "intermediate harvesting" will be utilized, exactly where in area 6 / 7 will those be done, how many acres will be affected, over what time frame will the work be completed, etc. Exactly what Treatment will be utilized here?
 - What will be done to assure no wildfires are created by these activities?
 - During what seasons/years will this take place, including a start and end period?
 - What type of "thinning, burning, replanting, etc." will be done?. The guidelines are too broad/vague in the documents provided, and are for "general" use (so more specificity is required from the USFS for this area, in order to comment/understand better what is being proposed)
 - Confirm that there will be no "commercial harvesting"? (as map shows none)
 - Confirm that there will be no burning? (map shows "none")
- I am concerned about our property values (current and future), so please provide an estimate and/or guarantee that our property values will not be negatively affected due to this project

- Will we be provided with a detailed plan, scope, impact of work (for areas 6 & 7 in particular) prior to any work, and for "comment and agreement on" by us residents?
- The "prescribed burning" in area 9, of Grid 16 is also of high concern.
 - when will it take place, how will it be done, during what period of time, with what "preventative measures", etc.?
 - What guarantees will be in place to prevent it from spreading beyond "limited areas"?

Thank you for allowing my comments and I look forward to hearing USFS formal responses to them.

I trust that the Middleman Project as a whole will be commented on by others who are able to attend in person (or by writing), as I am not able to be present in person during the upcoming comment sessions.

**Please assure that my comments get passed along to the responsible parties, in case I have accidently missed them.

Sincerely,

--

Rich Jahr
469-203-9850