

Norton, Michelle - FS, HAMILTON, MT

From: Marsha Waliser [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, May 20, 2022 5:30 PM
To: FS-comments-northern-bitterroot-stevensville
Subject: [External Email]Bitterrot Front Comments

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Comments-northern-bitterroot-stevensville@usda.gov

Bitterroot Front Project

The following are comments from Jim and Marsha Waliser.

1. Due to the mistruths from the Friends of the Bitterroot and other "environmental groups" our forest are in sad shape. The Current Ads published by the FOB is a total misinformation on this project! We did not see anything in the proposal that would destroy the Mountain Views, hurt the hunting and fishing, damage the water shed, create drier forests, harm wildlife, wreck recreation, cost taxpayers millions, lower property values or add to the "climate crisis".

According to the Project Objectives the plan is to reduce Fuels for the health of the forest which is totally needed due to lack of management that has accrued for years in the Entire Bitterroot National Forest. The disease and over density of trees is a disaster waiting to happen. We believe that due to lack of forest management the Elk, Deer and other big game animals have moved to the valley floor and now live among the houses and people which is going to lead to disease, more human vs wildlife problems and other issues.

Due to the lack of Forest Management (ie Logging and thinning) the economy of the valley has suffered greatly. Our roads, schools and other things can benefit greatly from Logging.

We do not agree with the closing and decommissioning of roads, we feel it causes more harm and also leads to Big Game displacement and sedimentation problems. Fires are a big cause of Big Game displacement, death, river and stream sedimentation (fish death) and algae growth plus air pollution.

Due to the "environmental groups" we no longer have leased BNF lands for cattle grazing or very little and the understory is not getting controlled. Another fire danger! Also, mineral exploration and mining can be done with little impact to the land with new methods. We have to get our minerals, oil and gas from somewhere and the US has many opportunities to cut the cost and dependance on foreign countries.

We would much rather look at a logged area than a burnt area and it recovers so much faster. Plus, you can control what is left, the possible erosion impacts, what trees are left (healthy vegetation), less impact on the Big Game and Fish, better water quality and slower snow melt. Plus, we do not have the smoke pollution (a serious health hazard for many of the older residents) from the uncontrolled wildfires.

We feel that this project is a win, win situation for the residents of the valley and the health of the forest. A lot of thought and good Forest Management went into the proposal.

Sincerely,

Jim and Marsha Waliser

[REDACTED]

Hamilton, MT 59840