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STATE OF MONTANA

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CORRINA L. BROWN
CLERK OF THE BOARD AND COUNTY RECORDER

August 17, 2023

Three Rivers Ranger District
12858 US Hwy 2
Troy, MT 59935

RE: Trojan Defense Project

Hello,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide suggestions to the Trojan Defense Project prior to scoping. We would like to commend you on the speed with which the Three Rivers District Staff has identified a project that addresses the concerns of Lincoln County in protecting the Town of Troy and the surrounding area from wildfire.

The Trojan Defense Project includes parts of the top two priority areas for treatment in the Bull Geographic Area as identified in the 2023 Lincoln County CWPP. Paired with the Wildfire Crisis Strategy Kootenai Complex priority fireshed, the use of the emergency action determination is certainly warranted. We appreciate your use of this authority, as the wildfire threats to our communities are so great that we don't have the luxury of time to address the issue. We all need to move quickly and decisively at this point.

In addition to the proposed treatments, which we support, Lincoln County would also like the district to develop any of the Primary Lines of Defense (PLODs) that occur within the project boundary, as displayed in the CWPP PLODs map. We would also ask that the district provide a map that overlays the PLODs layer with ownership within and adjacent to the project area, so that those lines of defense are acknowledged as a needed part of the effort to protect the community of Troy. Such a map would assist the county in working across boundaries with the State of Montana, Stimson and other private lands to establish those lines on other ownerships if necessary.

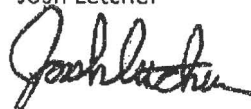
Lincoln County may also be able to offer assistance in further developing cross-boundary treatments by applying for grant opportunities to treat private lands adjacent to the Trojan Defense Project, if or when such opportunities become available.

Sincerely,

Brent Teske

Josh Letcher

Jim Hammons



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