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First name: Lois

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Organization: Tri-County Firesafe Working Group

Title: President

Comments: Dear Dr. Platt: Tri-County Firesafe Working Group is a local non-profit whose mission is to provide public education and fuel mitigation on private lands and adjacent Federal lands when appropriate. We are generally supportive of the Forestwide Prescribed Fire Project EA. We have the following specific comments.

- o We recommend that the highest priority for treatment be [ldquo]the importance of areas for community wildfire protection[rdquo]. We recommend that the Forest prioritize WUI areas with the densest human population needing protection.
- o We recommend that the Forest clarify the intent of the decision to include cross-boundary treatments.
- o We support the Elkhorns being a priority area for treatment, specifically the northwest portion of the mountain range. We believe the fuel conditions in this area present a very real danger to the surrounding homeowners.
- o We do not see monitoring addressed in this document. We ask that you add the following language: ? Implementation monitoring will be completed annually in order to inform the public of [bull] Acres accomplished in the previous fiscal year [bull] Prescription accomplishment (% overstory/understory consumed) [bull] Design criteria incorporated and % accomplishment in meeting those criteria

Appendix B [ndash] Project Design Features are critical to ensure successful implementation of the project and to achieve the desired outcomes. We encourage the Forest to verify that these criteria are addressed in project implementation.

- o Appendix C [ndash] Implementation Plan and Checklist. This is a helpful checklist. We recommend that the Forest add a public information process in which the public is notified of proposed projects and the supporting documentation for the project is made publicly available prior to implementation. We suggest adding an annual report to the public of what the Forest accomplished in that year specific to this project.
- o Our group would like to participate in the prioritization of projects in Broadwater, Jefferson and Lewis and Clark counties to allow us to maximize our effectiveness in working on private lands.
- o We strongly encourage the Forest to use the VMAP product rather than LANDFIRE. VMAP is much more appropriate for project level analysis and implementation. VMAP is the base used in the Forest Plan and it is also very important for Plan compliance.
- o Editorial comments: [bull] the Fire, Fuels and Airshed section (pg. no. 23) has archaeological information that doesn[rsquo]t belong there. [bull] The Botany section (pg. no. 10) fails to recognize toadflax and leafy spurge as major weed species in the project area.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments. My email is [president@tcfswg.org](mailto:president@tcfswg.org) if that is needed for the record. On behalf of the Board of Directors,