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Bitterroot N F This letter is in response to your scoping document on the Bitterroot Front Project dated 4/20/22. The scoping document lacks detail on exactly what is being proposed, where it is proposed, or when it is proposed. This lack of information makes it impossible to make really effective comments. Two and one-half years ago the BNF held several meetings asking people to come and describe what management activities they wanted to see done on the Bitterroot Front. The scoping document poorly reflects the numerous and varied concerns and desires expressed at those meetings. For the past few decades the BNF has used fuel reduction as a cover for the logging program, and the scoping document appears to follow that pattern. I would suggest you issue a new scoping document that emphasizes ecological, wildlife, and recreation needs, along with the fire protection needs. There are a few questions that need answers:

1. How much volume is available to log from a silvicultural standpoint?
2. What percentage of this volume is economical to access from existing roads?
3. in general, how far from private land do you need to reduce fuels in the WUI?  $\frac{1}{4}$  mile,  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, 1 mile?
4. How do you plan on maintaining the desired level of fuel reduction?
5. What areas of the Bitterroot Front are in greatest need for fuel reduction?

On page 9 of the scoping document it states that commercial harvest is an appropriate tool in MA 5. The Forest Plan does not appear to support this. Attached is a copy of some specific information previously submitted. Sincerely, Kirk Thompson