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Comments: I very much appreciated the briefing given us in Oracle regarding the FireScape plan.

I have followed fire management science for decades through the Tall Timbers Research Station reports and value prescribed burns as one of many effective management tools.

Living in Oracle on the National Forest boundary, I have also seen the threat posed to this unique community by the Oracle Hill. Bullock and Aspen Fires.

Much of Oracle is composed of steep terrain, bisected by numerous drainages, and covered with dense, brushy vegetative material with an abundance of manzanita (living and dead), grey thorn, bear grass, low oaks and recently, invasive grasses. The topography also generates erratic wind patterns that change direction in seconds.

In short, the community is still a powder keg even though, as a Firewise Community, working in cooperation with the USFS and the State Forestry Division, we have made great strides in reducing potential wildfire fuel sources.

Ongoing and successful fuel reduction programs in Oracle have stressed non-fire treatment methods such as mastication, cutting, chipping, grubbing and fire wood harvesting.

I would urge the USFS to NOT NOT PLAN FOR OR USE PRESCRIBED BURNING as a management tool in the vicinity of the Oracle community. The risk of a prescribed burn getting out of control due to our erratic wind patterns, topography and dense vegetation is simply too great for this jewel of a community.

I would recommend that fuel reduction programs in and around Oracle be restricted to mastication, cutting, chipping, grubbing and fire wood harvesting.

Respectfully,

Holt Bodinson