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Organization: Mt. Lemmon Water District

Title: Manager

Comments: I am for the firescape program. In the past, the management for the MSO was to protect the habitat and not allow thinning around the endangered species areas. A fire like the 6/2003 Aspen fire did not damage this habitat but destroyed it. This destroyed area will take many years to recover. Another fire will destroy protected areas and it is just when and not if a fire will happen. I do hope this new plan allows for thinning the overgrown forest and actually gets to protect the Owl and the other communities within the forest. The mountain communities will adapt to firescape. Smoke and noise are a part of this plan and we will adapt. Perhaps fire will return to its natural process. I do hope the proposed plan will be able to follow the mentioned schedule and start within the Upper Sabino Watershed. This watershed is headwater to the Tucson Sabino Recreation Area and should be protected from another major wildfire. Please use community help in this plan. Keep us involved and inform. Together this plan will work. If the Forest Service does not allow communities to be involved the plan might not be as effective. The Mount Lemmon Communities, Forest Service, Summerhaven and federal lease land use this watershed for beneficial use for domestic and recreational water. Protect our precious resource. Please secure the necessary funding to allow this plan to work.

Thank you,

Michael Stanley

Manager

Mt. Lemmon Water District