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Title:

Comments: One year ago today, the town of Paradise California essentially disappeared and 85 citizens perished in a matter of hours, when the wildland fire everyone knew would happen, happened. I was intimately familiar with the threat fire posed to this community having worked for CAL FIRE in Butte County for 33 years, three of which I was assigned as the Battalion Chief for the area including Paradise and three years as the Vegetation Management Chief for the Butte Unit. What I observed throughout my career was too little being done, too late. Small window dressing projects were accomplished without any consideration for long term maintenance or overall effectiveness.. What was needed were large scale fuel reduction projects similar to the Buckhorn GNA. I applaud the cooperation between the Montana DNRC and USFS and fully support the Buckhorn GNA. The risk to communities from fire in the Bitterroot Valley is real, losing a community is devastating. Good luck with your efforts.