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First name: Michael

Last name: Gerringer

Organization: Big Creek Fire Department

Title: Fire Chief

Comments: Date: January 5, 2020

Mr. Anthony B. Bothello

District Ranger, Krassel District

US Forest Service

500 North Mission Street

McCall, Idaho

83638

Subject: Public Comment on Environmental Impact Assessment for Big Creek Edwardsburg Fuels Reduction Project - Big Creek Fire Department

Dear District Ranger Bothello:

I am Fire Chief for the Big Creek Fire Department community volunteer organization. We generally support the goals for fuels reduction direction of the Big Creek Edwardsburg Fuels Reduction Project. However, we are concerned that the Environmental Assessment (EA) and accompanying material on the project website are silent or insufficient regarding many points from the original public comment period. Further, our continued support is contingent on the USFS being responsive to all comments submitted by homeowners in this (12/5/19 - 1/6/20) period. As of this writing, I am referring to specific comments from Schwarzhoff, Fregien, Gillihan, Maupin, Bullock, and Gerringer posted on the project comment/objection website. Other homeowner feedback that occurs within this comment period is included in this expectation. As pointed out by multiple homeowners the EA is incomplete without addressing major requirements of the prescribed burn planning process.

A public meeting with Forest decision makers is an important opportunity for you to gain insights from those that are highly knowledgeable and will be affected by the project - Big Creek/Edwardsburg property and homeowners. Proceeding without a formal public opportunity to meet and discuss elements of this project is simply a bad idea. We'll be unwilling to support the plan without a meeting.

We wish you and your team a Happy New Year and look forward to working together to ensure this project is successful for all.

Sincerely,

Michael Gerringer

Fire Chief

Big Creek Fire Department