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First name: Michael

Last name: Gerringer

Organization: Big Creek Fire Department

Title: Chief

Comments: Mr. Patrick Schon

Fire Management Specialist

Payette National Forest, East Zone

Dear Mr. Schon,

The Big Creek Hazardous Fuels Project is an important step forward in the ongoing challenge of managing fuels and fire danger in Forest Service lands around Big Creek and Edwardsburg. We support the project. Our ongoing request that the local residents be included thru public meetings, active two way communication, and genuine consideration of our comments and input. There is substantial local knowledge that will be beneficial to managing risks and outcomes in what we all know is a high risk project. No one wins if the burn gets away!

Specifically we are expecting an open Forest Service public meeting, likely this July and in Big Creek, to give Big Creek/Edwardsburg residents opportunity to comment on the detail Burn Plan well before it is finalized. We expect extensive review of the burn blocks, ignition protocols, contingency planning, and traffic safety precautions. We also need to understand specifically what the precautions and plan will be to protect Big Creek if there is a resulting wildfire that spreads into the Frank Church Wilderness.

Thank you for your work to date, it is great to see real progress on this critical mission.

Sincerely,

Michael Gerringer

Big Creek Fire Department, Chief