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First name: Mike

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Mr. Schon,

I support the Big Creek Fuels Reduction Project.

However, as I commented in my letter to the Project on December 30, 2019:

Page 27 - REC-5 (Objective - "Where necessary, restrict log hauling during periods of high recreation use, such as the opening day of big game hunting season. ") Please expand. This language is inadequate to protect residents with one access road to the valley. Logging, equipment and other large trucks need to have limited numbers of trips per day. The EA (page 18) predicts 604 heavy equipment trips on the southern segment (#7) of Warren to Profile Gap Road. Tactics such as defined travel windows, pilot vehicles, specific yielding requirements, and safety protocols for high use ATV roads are suggested. During periods of snow and ice additional precautions are warranted. FS must recognize that a single large equipment accident could incapacitate the ONLY escape route for days. In the most restricted road stretches, additional turnouts should be constructed. Please also note that there is significant stock trailer activity required for both residents and the FS itself, so precautionary measures regarding large equipment travel are further appropriate.

Thank you for adding REC-8 as an additional safeguard.

I remain concerned as of the April 20 EA Revision regarding traffic. While I am not objecting to the project, I strongly believe that it is in all our best interest to establish travel windows and other mitigations to avoid a situation in the Fall where an inadvertent traffic jam arises blocking the only egress to the valley. Travel is very dicey this time of year with all travelers managing their travel carefully, especially those with large loads or livestock trailers. The opportunities for safe travel can close very quickly and weather forecasts may or may not have anything to do with what happens on Profile Summit. A single rig having to "chain up" can tie up the single lane mountain pass for hours.

Please engage with local residents in planning equipment traffic, especially in the Fall. 604 additional heavy equipment trips over Profile is a substantial additional risk. I am very confident that we can work out a safe schedule for all.

Thanks for your amazing progress on this previously stalled project. The work of you and your team are evident and appreciated. See you this Summer in Big Creek for the public meeting.

Mike Gerringer

Edwardsburg Home Owner