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Comments: Like most Idahoans I would like to see the same acreages designated for mechanical thinning. The same objectives can be achieved with less cost or risk. A brief review of past controlled burns follows:

South Barker fire; about 45,000 acres of controlled burn, more than two months duration, started by lightning strike east of Featherville, slow burning, the first week it went from a few acres to several hundred. It was reported that it burned out a Ponderosa plantation planted in the 1930s in the Shake creek area then controlled to move northwest over ridges up to 9,000' elevation. It burned many square miles of white bark pine, tree age was determined to be at least 400 years old, so no previous fire activity in that length of time. It could have been extinguished by a single bomber pass at any time, instead fire protection was established at cabins along the South Boise River north of Fleck summit. After action review by Glenn Bradley (retired USFS Supervisor) on horseback reported burned drainages and erosion throughout this Bull trout area. This fire resulted in healthy pine sidehills burned off to the last tree and elk bogs burned off where elk have not returned. Species like Clarks Nut Cracker and Jays are now rare where they were pre-fire plentiful. A large part of this fire occurred in higher elevations and will take over 100 years to recover.

Kelly fire; started by a lightning strike a couple of miles south of the South Boise River and north of Smokey Dome. The fire was "played with" by fire managers as a controlled burn. It was allowed to burn near the South Boise River. After fire reports that massive erosion occurred along the river creating canyons and together with previous other fires sent thousands of tons of silt into the Anderson Ranch Reservoir.

It seems like the reported fifteen to twenty million dollars spent on these two fires would go a long way towards thinning.

Not quite a controlled burn; located a few of miles north of the Methodist Church Camp. The objective seemed to be to open a quaky aspen area from pine intrusion. For several years tries were made: signs posted then food trucks arrived on site and living arrangements were established for the crews. Nobody had the balls to light it off, thankfully. It seems like a couple of guys with chain saws could accomplish this objective with little risk or cost.

When Forest Service employees gaslight the public on the benefits of controlled burns then invent degradation supposedly caused by mining and grazing they lose the confidence and respect of the public. Although we may have different management visions our love for this Forest is no less.

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