

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/21/2022 6:00:00 AM

First name: Patty

Last name: Franklin

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am very much in favor of the proposed fuels reduction, vegetation management, and forest health improvement project on the Stevensville and Darby Ranger Districts.

The Montana Forest Action Plan recently identified the area as having high wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure and significant forest health concerns. Ravalli County currently has the greatest risk from wildfires in Montana, with six communities in the top 10 of all Montana communities with structures at risk from wildfire.

Every summer we breath the smoke of these fires from unmanaged forest.

This project will:

- \* Reduce the current and future wildfire risk to people, private lands, and resource values by reducing hazardous forest fuels.
- \* Improve forest resilience to natural disturbances (fire, insects, and disease) by modifying forest conditions.
- \* Improve wildlife habitat and forage for elk and other big game animals.
- \* Contribute to the local economy by providing timber products and related jobs.