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Comments: As a resident of the Bitterroot Valley, and living in the Wildland Urban Interface I am very interested in plans for fuel reduction in the Bitterroot National Forest, in conjunction with private land owners that border the Wildland Urban Interface. Federal and private landowners might create a more defensible space. Less risk for everyone involved. Without treatment of our forest, there will surely be catastrophic fires.

There is resistance to fire management. However, when people smell smoke they want the Forest Service there to protect them. With a plan for management, there might be opportunities to develop different strategies for different areas, that could lessen the chance for a huge fire that would be impossible to fight. Safer for all.

There have been many fires in the Bitterroot, the kind that moves across the landscape that leave scored earth behind. The idea that when there is fire, with a plan it might be managed in a safer way, instead of huge wildfire that spewe pollution into the environment for days on end.

A managed plan could create and restore wildlife habitat, develop area of multi use as well employment for our communities.

We know that there has to be fire, and thinning of trees and vegetation to keep the forest healthy. We've learned that fire and thinning are tools to manage our own property. We have to be good stewards of our land to preserve it for future generations.

I support The Bitterroot National Forest proposed fuel reduction, vegetation management, and forest improvement project on the Stevensville and Darby Ranger District