

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/17/2022 6:00:00 AM

First name: Colleen

Last name: Southwick

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The US Forest Service has pledged to consider climate factors and current research in all new projects. Climate considerations are not mentioned or followed in the current project proposal.

Current science indicates that "old growth" trees (30-40 years in age or older) sequester far more carbon than smaller trees that replace them. Current climate mitigation forestry science suggests every mature healthy tree remains standing.

Current science questions the value of "thinning" vast swaths of forest out beyond the immediate HIZ (Hazardous Ignition Zone) within 150 ft of structures. BCAG strongly supports clearing the HIZ throughout the Wildland Urban Interface. An article in The Missoulian from January 19th on this subject observed that fire behavior causing the most serious human community destruction in the last few years strongly supports this direction.