

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/18/2022 6:00:00 AM

First name: Nick

Last name: Matthias

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I would like to enter a public comment in support of the Bitterroot Front project. Increasing populations, more forest recreators, and a high density of homes near the forest create a higher fire danger year after year. This project seeks to effectively reduce fuels, improve habitat, and have a generally healthier forest eco system. As a firefighter in the Bitterroot Valley, it is incredibly important that this project moves forward, so that the fire danger is reduced.

As a hunter, angler, and conservationist, I fully support the project. Fuels reduction is proven to not only reduce fire risk, but also improve habitat for wildlife.

More and more people in and around the forest, and a decreasing workforce of paid and volunteer wildland firefighters, has created a high risk situation, that needs to be mitigated with this project and others.

I hope you consider my fully supportive public comment when making a decision to proceed with the project.

Sincerely,

Nick Matthias

Assistant Fire Chief

Three Mile Fire Dept.

Thank you.