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First name: Taylor

Last name: Orr

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I offer the following comments on the Bitterroot Front Project;

1) This project is huge, transversing several very different ecotypes on the east front of the Bitterroot Mountains. A project of this scope warrants an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and public participation.

2) No roads, temporary or permanent, should be constructed for this project. The Bitterroot National Forest (BNF) is already heavily roaded, and well beyond what can be adequately maintained.

3) The project should avoid Recommended Wilderness and Inventoried Roadless Areas. These areas provide critical, intact habitats for wildlife sensitive to fragmentation.

4) Protect riparian areas, honor the Executive Order directing the preservation of old-growth forests, and retain Forest Plan standards that protect wildlife and their respective habitats.