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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an eighteen year resident of Ravalli County I'm am very concerned with the increased bio-mass we have experienced since the 2000 fires. I personally was on Westside Road less than a half mile from Roaring Lion Rd when the fire broke out. I had to evacuate six equines, three trailers and valuable personal effects. I now live in Victor in the Big Creek drainage and water district. Last Fall our water board had several members ride up to the Big Creek Lake to check out the dam etc. Along was a gentleman from one of the agencies that monitors forest health. He was quoted as saying this was one of the poorest forest areas he'd ever seen. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of access up Big Creek Canyon to log. But it is ripe for a major fire.

I am frustrated that every time this issue is approached outside environmental groups with headquarters on the east coast file injunctions and legally interfere in local matters just because some Federal land is involved. We need to be able to undertake efforts to reduce the danger without any interference from non-local interest who have no personal stake in our valley.