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Comments: Thank you for taking comments in regards to the Bitterroot Front Project (Scoping Phase).

The Bitterroot Range enticed me to move to Missoula over 40 years ago. It remains dear to my heart and the continued site of many hiking adventures. I have reviewed the information provided.

Your project objectives are all admirable, wise and needed at this time in light of exciting forest vegetation and conditions due to insect damage, disease and climate change effects.

I understand the proposed actions in light of the thinning projects that are being done here in Pattee Canyon over the last few years. Extensive areas have been treated by commercial thinning and low level burning but no regenerating thinning. This actions sounds a lot like clear cutting which I'm not particularly in favor of. I'm glad to see that no new or reconditioned roads are planned in roadless areas.

My major concerns at this point include:

1) The plan is very vague on exactly what type of treatments will be done in each area, when, and how extensive. The problems/objections usually lie in the details.

2) Using conditioned-based NEPA analysis is not acceptable to me. With this type of analysis there will not be public oversight or time to comment or meaningful information to comment upon whether positive or negative. I would like many more specifics.

3) My understanding also is that EA uses only existing data to make assessments and when was this data collected??? Seems that a full EIS is more appropriate for such an extensive area and for such dramatic treatments which would then address new, current, on the ground information.

4) My last concern is about the Inventoried Roadless areas in which over 13,00 acres are projected to have commercial thinning. Will wild land values be protected?? How can you get those big machines onto the land or the timber removed without damaging the landscape???

Thank you for your time and dedication to our forests. I applaud your efforts but certainly would like more detailed information.