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First name: Nancy

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a resident of the Bitterroot Valley since 1979 I would like to publicly state that I am opposed to the Bitterroot Front Project. I support leaving all Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas and Roadless Areas alone and intact. For 42 years I have watched population growth, development and forest "management" erode habitat and squeeze wildlife into smaller and smaller areas. The last two years have seen an explosion of use on our public lands, stressing wildlife even more. I resent having Forest Service money and my tax dollars go towards protecting people who choose to live in the wildland/urban interface while they push the wildlife out into the valley where conflicts occur or up into the rock and ice, which is a poor substitute for prime habitat.

I am dismayed to learn that the definition of old growth is to be changed in order to accommodate this project. I implore you to retain all trees 16 inches diameter or greater in compliance with the recent Executive Order directing the preservation and protection of mature and old-growth forests.

If I am remembering correctly, sometime in the 80's it was determined that clear cutting forests was not good management, nor sound science. In this era of fire, why would you want to remove natural windbreaks resulting in increased wildfire speed and intensity?

And finally, I ask that you PLEASE consider the reality of climate change and avoid logging and road building both of which increase carbon emissions, remove carbon stores, and reduce future carbon sequestration.

For these reasons and others, I oppose the Bitterroot Front Project. Thank you for taking my comments into serious consideration.