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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Bitterroot Front Project. Since moving to Missoula 27 years ago, my husband and I have recreated along this project area; hiking, backpacking, skiing and snowshoeing. It is a remarkable, rich area where resources must be protected both for human use and wildlife use without compromising the integrity of the landscape as it transitions into the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness. The magnitude of the Bitterroot Front Project means it cannot be treated as one zone.

* Condition-based analysis is not appropriate and traditional National Environmental Policy Act practices need to be used to ensure that all environmental impacts are considered on all proposed actions and that we, the public, have ample opportunity to impact the decision-making process.

* I understand the urgency of addressing fire through fuel treatment but it is necessary to consider sit-specific projects within the projects planned 53,000 acres of commercial logging and road building. Otherwise protection of wildlife, streams and mature and old growth forests can not be assured.

* The Forest Service must ensure that the integrity of all Inventoried Roadless Areas, Research Natural Areas and Recommended Wilderness areas within the project zone is maintained. The project area provides intact habitat for many species such as lynx, grizzly bear, wolverine, bull trout, mountain goats, and fisher. It also includes the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Experimental Population Area where grizzly bears may be present. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service should be consulted to analyze how project activities such as logging and additions of new roads may impact bear use.

* To address fire danger, the Bitterroot Front Project must go beyond timber harvesting and prescribed burns, it also should use other tools such as funding for restoration components, ongoing maintenance, monitoring, and recreation surveys and planning.

* In addition, the environmental analysis must include the impacts of climate change. Maintaining healthy forest as carbon sinks will reduce these impacts, thus balancing out logging and large-scale wildfires with the loss of carbon sequestration opportunities is an important part of analysis.

Thank you again for this opportunity to comment,