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Title:

Comments: To Forest Supervisor

RE: Bitterroot Front Project

I want to go on record as SUPPORTING this project. It makes total common and enviromental sense to proceed with this project.

That said, I believe the BNF is up against huge odds of completing this project without some kind of NEPA relieve or at least abbreviation from the traditional FS process. Something like the Salvage Sale Rider language of the 1990's after a prolonged fire season and a huge amount of burned over forest land, not unlike the past several years.

Without this NEPA relief the USFS will undoubtedly face the appeals and lawsuits from the local and maybe some national preservationist groups with a stated objective to stop timber harvest on National Forests. Those from the Missoula, MT area are particularly adept at these lawsuits.

So that said, the nonsense or cherry picked data they will present, appeal and file suit with needs substantial review including the context it was written for and of course the author. Articles have already been written against this project and of course provide nothing but opinion veiled references.

I encourage the USFS to consult with Type 1 ICS Fire Behavior Analysts for production on fire behavior in the various watersheds under consideration for expert opinion based on years of experience. Additionally contact Forestry Schools that don't agree with the preservationist doctrine. For instance Professor John Bailey at Oregon State University, he has a different opinion, backed by science just to name one education professional with a different option than the preservationist.

The public via newspaper opinion, letters and etc is being "gaslit". It is my professional opinion with at least 25 years on the wildfire line from running a pulaski thru being an Incident Commander on a Northern Rockies Incident Command Team, degrees in Forest Management and Forest and Range Ecology differ from what is being portrayed by a few elitist enviro/preservationists.

The wildfires being experienced today are "neglect fires". Neglecting the science that told us this was coming. Neglecting the conditions on the ground due to climate change and lack of treatment and management. To simply label the current conditions and resulting wild fires as "climate fires" is misleading and disingenuous at best. Every project and forest plan that is litigated and brings to a halt resulting treatment and fuels management, fuels a "climate fire".

Thank you for the chance to comment and please keep me on your contact list for future information on the Bitterroot Front Project.

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