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First name: Anne and Randy

Last name: Kula

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Fuel Reduction Project on the Bitterroot National Forest

Dear Mr. Brown,

My husband and I have lived in the Bitterroot most of our lives and we remember when the Forest Service was allowing logging in this area to keep the forests free of the buildup of downed and dead trees here. Now it seems that every time there is any proposal of that sort the environmental groups have been allowed to put a stop to them. These people are obviously not from here. They have no idea what happens to the land when it is not taken care of. You would think they would learn the lessons being taught by mother nature in California and other places that they have interfered with the natural order of things. We have been sickened by watching our forests die from the bug infestations that are allowed now. The wildlife they profess to be so attached to cannot even get through the forests because of all the dead fall and brush. No animal that depends on being able to run for their safety is going to live in areas that are so choked. That is the reason so many of them are moving down into the towns and becoming such a nuisance. When we were kids, you never saw dead trees and orange hillsides from the dead trees. Now 90% of the trees from the bottom of Lost Trail Pass over into the Big Hole are DEAD. They all need to be taken out and processed for other things. My husband's home place burned in the fires up the East Fork in 2000 from a Forest Service Backfire that ended up burning all that area. If it had been logged before there wouldn't have been such devastation. Now all the little trees that are coming back are way too thick and the rest of the hillsides have nothing on them and won't for way beyond our lifetimes. The Bitterroot Forest NEEDS desperately to be cleaned of all the dead trees and underbrush before we have a catastrophic fire that burns and ruins the ground for many generations. Catastrophic fires kill the soil!!!!!! It also endangers the whole watershed not to mention all the animals that are displaced and destroyed. People with no sense should not be allowed to dictate what anyone with a brain can see needs to be done and as soon as possible. We are in ABSOLUTE support of cleaning out the mess that our forests have become. Please DO WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THE LAND AND DON'T LET PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT RUIN IT FOR ALL TIME.

Sincerely,

Anne and Randy Kula