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Title:

Comments: Nick, Thanks for offering the GAP Project virtual session last month so those of us who couldn't make the in-person sessions could learn more about the project. The session was very helpful. A few things are on my mind as both an adjacent property owner to the Lost Cove WSA and a member of Friends of Harper Creek and Lost Cove Wilderness. First, I'm concerned about the possibility of project activity reducing the Wilderness characteristics and continued Wilderness suitability of Harper Creek, Lost Cove and any other WSAs you might work in on this project. I was glad to read that "Fire line networks rely heavily on existing and natural breaks, such as existing roads, trails, and creeks." As we saw with the recent Lost Cove fire, creeks and streams can be very effective fire breaks, and there are lots of them in our WSAs. I very much hope that any new fire lines constructed in WSAs will minimize or avoid significant digging. I'm also concerned about the potential for fire lines to become new, unofficial trails, including by mountain bikers riding illegally in the WSAs. While I think biking has declined recently in the Harper Creek/Lost Cove WSAs, I'd hate to see something avoidable cause that to increase. I'd like to advocate for fire lines that won't be attractive to bikers or hikers who might be tempted (or confused) into creating new trails. Finally, I'd like to encourage (and applaud in advance!) extra efforts to naturalize sites of project activity in WSAs as much as possible. I would like to learn more about all of this, and particularly how you plan and conduct project activities differently in Wilderness and WSAs than activities in non-Wilderness areas. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your team again for how well you handled the Lost Cove fire, including your excellent communication and responsiveness with me and other adjacent landowners. Please let me know how I might be able to help, and if you would also like me to submit my comments through the project's online comment form as well. Thanks again. John Wilson Friends of Harper Creek and Lost Cove Wilderness John Wilson My documentaries are online at vimeo.com/album/220893