

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/17/2022 7:00:00 AM

First name: Phylip

Last name: Leslie

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The purpose of this letter is to express our concerns regarding the Dixie National Forest Prescribed Fire Landscape Resiliency Project Environmental Assessment (EA). We would like to bring to your attention the fact that no consideration has been given to our property located within the study area.

We are the owners of 161.45 acres within the Prescribed Fire Landscape Resilience Project. The property currently is in the name of Gary A. Anderson and Sandra J. Anderson and is in Section 12, T35S, R4W and Section 7 & 18, T35S, R3W, SLB&M, Garfield County, Utah. Gary A. Anderson is deceased, and Sandra is now married to Phylip J. Leslie.

Relevant Issues:

No Wildland Urban Interface is shown around the 161.45 acres of private property listed above.

Coordination between the first management staff and the private landowners were not addressed in the EA.

Proposed Scenic Integrity Assignments for private property within the Powell Ranger District were not listed.

No Wildland Urban Interface is shown along the length of Tom Best Road (No. 117).

Our land within the Study Area should be protected with a one-half mile Wildland Urban Interface area or zone around the perimeter of the property as has been provided around the Garfield County Dump and other Private Lands within the Improvement Area.

Our private property was Homesteaded over a hundred years ago. The original homestead cabin still stands today. It is imperative that buffer zones be created around the perimeter of the property to preserve esthetic views and property values.

A Wildland Urban Interface buffer zone should also be provided along the Tom Best Road (No. 117) as it is along Highway 12. The Tom Best Road (No. 117) is part of the "Great Western Trails System". It is very important that the beauty and grandeur of this trail be preserved.

These zones around our private property and along the Tom Best Road were provided in the Mud Springs Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project and should be maintained. We find no reference to the Mud Springs Project in this EA. It could be that most of the Landscape Resilience Project within the Powell Ranger District has already been taken care of.

All constructed fire lines and fire areas within the line of sight of the private property should be obliterated following prescribed fires as proposed for open areas.

There were no specific areas, type of burning, or costs associated with the proposed Prescribed Fire Landscape Resiliency Project included in the Proposed Action for Scoping or the Environmental Assessment.

For some reason we were unaware of the Scoping Process a year ago and were unable to comment. It appears that some comments were submitted regarding the lack of specific areas and cost estimates during the Scoping Process, but we see nothing was added in the EA.

Prescribed fire uses pose a potential risk to private land as well as livestock. Coordination with the private landowners as well as the Cattlemen who graze their cattle in the area should occur.

Proposed Scenic Integrity Objective Assignments for our Private Property in the Powell Ranger District could be added.

Recreational resources should be considered. Hunting and ATV riding is the predominant activity within the area of this EA.

It is suggested that the Dixie National Forest Prescribed Fire Landscape Resiliency Project #60970 proposed by the Dixie National Forest address the following in the Environmental Assessment:

Include a Wildland Urban Interface around our 161.45 acres of private land listed above.

Coordination between the fire management staff and the private landowners should be addressed in the EA.

Proposed Scenic Integrity Assignments for private property within the Powell Ranger District should be listed.

Wildland Urban Interface should be shown along the length of Tom Best Road (No. 117).

Different methods of burning in specific areas could be listed.

We look forward to receiving your revised Environmental Assessment for the Prescribed Fire Landscape Resiliency Project #60970. If you have questions, please contact us by phone or email