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Comments: This project is just another poor attempt by the Forest Service to justify turning as much acreage of the public land into woodlots as possible. If you complete this project as designed, you will ruin wildlife and recreation in the Bitterroot. You may also lower property values when we all have to look up and see the mess you left on our view shed. Thinning forests and prescribed burning does not look pretty and does not support a robust wildlife population. Messy looking piles of woody debris make excellent wildlife habitat, snags make great wildlife habitat, old growth and thick tree cover make wonderful wildlife habitat.

I worked in mine reclamation and spent some time researching how to repair the damage to wildlife habitat from mining. The tree thinning and prescribed burning proposed is similar to the damage caused by mining. Both destroyed wildlife habitat and both required and will require millions of dollars and billions of hours to repair. Some wildlife habitat will not return in our lifetime and some wildlife species will be lost. Please think about what you are doing and stop this one approach that does not fit all. You will ruin the Bitterroot like you ruined other forests.

It may be cheaper to pay people to move from the forested areas of danger than to spend millions of dollars of taxpayer money to protect their homes. Some of these areas should never have had homes in them in the first place. They are already expensive to maintain roads, power lines, emergency services, police, school buses. And, now they want the Forest service to protect their homes. Where is your common sense?