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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My wife and I own 36 acres (2 lots) at Hungry Ridge Ranch (HRR). We are planning to live full time in the area within the next two years. The 400-acre subdivision is surrounded by mostly forest service land that is part of the HUNGRY RIDGE RESTORATION PROJECT #43661.

The HRR story for us goes back to the early 2000's when the private land was clear cut for timber, then divided into 20 lots for sale to the public. We bought our first lot in 2019 and our second lot in 2021. The clear cut areas have grown back with trees and are thickly wooded with many varieties of pine that reach 40' into the air. The surrounding Forest Service Land is a fire hazard in my opinion. The trees on the other side of the fence surrounding HRR subdivision reach 80-100'. Every Spring 40-50 of these behemoths fall and not only bring down the fence that divides the FS land from HRR land but have to be manually removed. These FS trees are also cramped for space which affects their health and as a result have less resilience to infestations and fires. This situation, in addition to being surrounded by dry deadfall, is a recipe for disaster in my opinion.

Since we began building, fire prevention has been one of our biggest concerns.

2020 was a very wet Spring with record May and June rainfall. The fire season was surprisingly light that year. Among the many fires in 2021 was the 963,000-acre Dixie fire less than 25 miles from us. Last year we were so thick with smoke from the surrounding fires that visibility was reduced to less than a mile on the ridge on and off for more than a month. Several large fires were within 50 miles of us. The owners of the 20 lots at HRR decided that a fire break was needed and we agreed to pay a contractor to come in and clear a 50' path around the 400 acres of all trees inside the subdivision. Around my cabin is a 100' barrier that I have cleared and my 36 acres are patrolled yearly for beetle-kill dead pine to burn.

The main reason for my comments here is to address the amount of fire fuel that exists just across the fence at HRR. The old 80'-100' pine tree forests are so thick with deadfall that it seems to be a tinderbox ready for a lightning strike. If ignited, I believe this would be a dangerous and devastating fire with many cabins/homes lost in the area along with the decimation of wildlife populations.

To me this is not a question of "IF" but a question of "WHEN" unless the dangerous fire fuels are cleaned out.