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Comments: I live in a 150 acre in-holding in the Helena Lewis National Forest, surrounded by Units 9,10,11 and 12, delineated in the Elk Smith fuels reduction project.

George Wuerthner, an ecologist, states in a Jan 31 2020 Op-Ed piece in the Idaho State Journal, that "Climate and weather are the biggest causes of forest fires. Fuels are not the driving force for wildfires; its the temperature, wind velocity and humidity that accelerates these fires. "

"Studies have shown that a total of 56,320 fires burned over 9 million acres in the Rocky Mountains between 1980-2003. 98% of these fires [55,220] burned less than 500 acres and accounted for only 4% of the area burned. By contrast, only 2% of all fires accounted for 96% of the acreage burned . What this suggests is that the fires we hope to control or halt by fuel reductions are the very fires we cannot stop. It makes no difference if thinning the forest slows or stops wild fires under moderate fire weather conditions since most of these blazes remain small and are quickly suppressed."

"On the other hand, the very fires that fuel reductions are aimed at stopping - those burning under extreme fire weather conditions - are the very blazes that are unstoppable."

"The idea that we can control or avoid large blazes in an age of climate change is delusional. We can protect homes through zoning and adoption of fire-safe home policies, but we are never going to stop climate-driven wildfires through logging."