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Comments: I'm writing you regarding the Backyard Forest Health treatments in Frisco's adjacent land. I have an experience in forest management and really would like to see this project done right.

I'm very glad that our town and Federal Govt. are taking a proactive approach to this problem and I applaud the effort. Although I'm concerned about the 'all or nothing' approach that has been taken so far and I'd like to express my hope to see a better all-around approach that does not involve in effect clear cutting defensive space zones.

Here's a quote from a good article on the subject. "Chad Hanson, Ph.D., an ecologist who co-founded the John Muir Project, is a prominent member of a growing community of scientists who challenge the notion that practices such as thinning and clear-cutting back-country woodlands will reduce the severity of wildfires. In a new book, *Smokescreen: Debunking Wildfire Myths to Save Our Forests and Our Climate*, he describes how recent research regarding fire behavior and ecology could provide the foundation for a new approach to forest management."

The whole article is here and is very relevant and full of good information. -

<https://www.governing.com/now/scientists-say-that-clearing-forests-worsens-wildfire-damage>

I think Hanson has a great point about how cleared areas allow wind, a driver of fire, to get into the understory of the forest more easily. Also how dense biomass in the forest holds more moisture which helps defend against fire. Not to mention all the erosion and age and species diversity challenges that occur in Clear-cutting areas.

It seems as though the treatments have made an attempt to cut certain areas selectively but after the burn piles are burned it kills the rest of the species and you end up with a clear cut.

I hope the interested parties are able to find a better solution to our Backyard areas, which we all enjoy on a regular basis, and not have the literal scorched earth policy we've seen in the local forest treatments so far. I would recommend a more Silviculture style with clearing and burning smaller areas and cleaning up in surrounding areas of snags and hanging trees, bringing them to the forest floor to decompose and hold moisture & biomass.

Thanks for your time.