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Comments: As long-time residents of Ravalli County, my wife and I overwhelmingly support the Bitterroot Front Project (BFP) and Environmental Assessment (EA).

Our primary advocacy position is founded on the transformative approach utilizing a large size critical mass of vegetation management for the landscape this project proposes.

Most significantly the BFP has rightly been authorized as an Emergency Action Determination, which recognizes the value of moving ahead quickly for the overall welfare of human interests to avoid the grave circumstances such as the recent horrific Maui hellscape.

The BFP EA relies on methodical science-based data, linked to real time reading of detrimental conditions by providing proposed actions necessary to accomplish the cited objectives, central among them reducing fire fuels and other proven treatments that diminish the power of wildfires.

While nothing can stop natural indiscriminate ignition sources, the Forest Service must initiate more fuel treatments at the scale of this project that will provide significant advantages for firefighting.

This project is crucial for the ecological, economic, and social health of the Forest and surrounding communities in the Bitterroot Valley and it will likely save lives.

We all know pre-wildfire treatments are far more environmentally beneficial and effective than the actions and operations conducted while fighting severe wildfires, and the same correlation of cost effectiveness applies.

Additionally, these post ignition actions during the management of wildfire incidents tend to cause more disturbance to animals due to altering wildlife habitat that not only cause displacement but conflicts as well.