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First name: David

Last name: Bedey

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As a 4th generation "Bitterrooter" and a state representative for Hamilton and the surrounding area, I have a keen interest in the preservation of the environment in which we all live. An integral part of accomplishing this goal is prudent forest management. One might argue about the reasons why the health of our forests has declined over the past few decades. But the fact is that if nothing is done-and done soon-our way of life will continue to be at risk. I applaud the effort of all of those who have participated in drafting the Bitterroot Front Project environmental assessment. It represents a thoughtfully laid out and balanced path forward for saving our forests and protecting Ravalli County's citizens. I strongly support its approval.