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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I represent roughly 5,000 members of the Outdoor Heritage Coalition as the Vice President and 400 members of the Montana Sportsmen for Fish and Wildlife Organization as the Executive Director. I have been a resident of Ravalli County for 25 years and I overwhelmingly support the Bitterroot Front Project (BFP).

There are two main areas of focus for our organizations for the approval of this project. First, it will provide fire protection to many residents on the west side of the valley. I have been involved with evacuations in the Bitterroot in the past as a law enforcement officer and it is a very dangerous situation on the westside of the valley, fuel loads and canopy cover need to be removed to provide future safety to our residents. I have witnessed fire every year for 25 years from my home here in thr Bitterroot.

Secondly, the stewardship that this project will bring will increase and improve wildlife habitat on public ground. This improvement will allow our wildlife to utilize public ground and remove the burden of wildlife overgrazing crops and grasslands, which causes hardships on landowners.

As a homeowner in the Bitterroot I implore that you move forward with this project, it is past due.

As a sportsmen and a representative of many other sportsmen in Montana this project is a win win for wildlife and we support it's implementation.

Thank you,

Jeff Darrah
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Executive Director MTSFW
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