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First name: James

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have read your Draft NEPA Documents on the project and support the Fuel Break projects you are proposing. I am in the process of implimenting a Firewise Project on my property along Bear Creek Trail and will be logging and thinning from below to reduce fuel loading from suppressed and intermediate trees , removing damaged and mistletoe infected trees, provide for at leaat 10 feet between Crowns of remaining crop trees, eliminate ladder fuels and surface fuels this year in November of 2023. Waiting on winter and frozen ground to operate on. I am collaboratively working this project with MT DNRC and will provide a demonstration site for my neighbors living nearby on how a private landowner can proactively protect their Property from potential catastrophic damage from Wildfires and living within the Wildland Urban Interface.

My company is currently performing under Forest Service Contracts and providing a new high performance Aerial / Ground Approved Fire Retardant at Missoula, Ronan here in Montana, San Bernadinio in California, Mosses Lake in Washington and just closed our operation for the season at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. I have USFS approved retardant in storage on site and maintain application equipment that I can apply as necessary to reduce any damage from the event of a wildfire threating my property or buildings.

I think that the Bitterroot NF could use this work as a model to encourage collaboration of adjacent land owners with your project that lay adjacent and would compliment the investment efforts you are making. The old saying -- "you certainly can multiply the benefits that your are achieving with your shadded Fuel Break / Fuel Reduction sites by collaboration!"

Please stop by anytime to discuss or I can meet you at the Bitterroot NF Supervisors Office !

Sincerely, Jim Marsh