Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/14/2023 5:40:06 PM
First name: Douglas
Last name: Soehren
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I was born in the Bitterroot and raised on the farm near and attended schools in Hamilton. I love this place primarily because of the health of the Bitterroot River, it's tributaries, the mountains, the fisheries and wildlife, camping, hiking and etc. My parents moved here in 1929 because of the abundance of wildlife and the many other natural resources that we have enjoyed and benefitted from. They are both buried here.

This "last best place" has been more and more rapidly down graded as a result of mismanagement of these resources, the Bitterroot National Forest in particular.
Having taken a hard look at the unacceptable lack of details presented for this project I must respectfully object to your going forward with it. To commercially log old growth and the mature forests in the area cannot be honestly called "Forest Restoration". Nor will this project if implemented result in any appreciable reduction of wildfire risk. Documented BNF forest fire research is clear on this point.

This "fuel break" project would instead reduce at best or more likely destroy the existing, functioning old growth habitat and eliminate future generations of old growth, wildlife and endangered species like the grizzly bears, wolverines, west slope cutthroat and bull trout they support. While at the same time reduce the already sequestered carbon in our National Forest, adding insult to injury.

Certainly our well educated National Forest Managers understand the important roll all our forests play in reducing carbon dioxide and sequestering carbon. The growing disasters of global climate change are caused in large part by removing too many trees and even entire forests. We humans must stop doing this if we hope to ever reduce the deaths and massive destruction.

Wake up! Now is the time and the opportunity for the Forest Service to change its "Get out the cut" mentality and priority. Calling this a "fuel break" project does not fool any of us Bitterrooters who have been paying attention and have been sharing our scientific and legal expertise with you and the Public for many years. The world is watching. You can't get away with it.