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Comments: Comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Dry Riverside Project (DRP).

I share the common goals of reducing fire risk and improving forest health in Montana's forest landscapes using the transformative approach this project proposes.

The DRP presents a critical opportunity to return fire and increase vegetation diversity over a large-scale landscape to make significant positive changes.

I support the purpose of the project described below which aligns strongly with the State of Montana's interests, to benefit both human and wildlife conditions.

1.Reduce fire behavior and intensity by reducing the fuel quantity, modifying the arrangement of the fuels, and reducing the current and future wildfire risk to people, private lands, and resource values.

2.Improve forest landscape health and resilience by reducing the risk or extent of, or increasing resilience to, insect and disease infestation.

3.Reduce the risk to first responders and raise the probability of success during direct and indirect engagement on wildfires by treating fuels to modify fire behavior and increasing operational opportunities to protect values.

The Environmental Assessment (EA) effectively discusses the conditions, alternatives, and effects of the project and sets the stage for critically needed actions in this area. I appreciate the excellent work of the Interdisciplinary Team with the analysis and discussion in the EA.