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Comments:

10/30/23

Lisa Osborn - USFS Project Leader - Trojan Defense Project Area:

I would like to offer the following comments in regard to the proposed Trojan Defense Project Area, which surrounds the northwest community of Troy, Montana, in Lincoln County, Montana.

I support this treatment project and its goals on the USFS lands surrounding Troy. The project scoping area is a mix of multiple landowners, containing timberlands, residences, and businesses adjacent to the city limits of Troy. The project is located in the Lincoln County WUI. The WUI designation is to identify areas of hazardous fuels, which presents a wildfire risk to the Troy community. Once the fire hazards and risks are identified it is the goal of the mixed timberland owners to figure out how to reduce the fuel hazards and propose a management plan or plans to mitigate and manage these WUI areas. That is what the Trojan Defense Project is all about. The USFS is one of the landowners in this WUI area, which surrounds the community of Troy, Montana to south and southwest of Troy. The area is well roaded and accessible. Fuel loads and stand density fuel ladders have reached extreme conditions in this WUI area surrounding Troy. It is time to take management actions such as; timber harvesting, pre-commercial thinning, develop fuel load breaks, under burning for ingrowth reduction. This area is due for strategic land management, and the project work proposed by the USFS Troy Ranger District is a good proposal and should be supported and initiated. I do feel that the 5-year timeline, could be shortened and completed in a shorter timeframe. Because the land ownership in this project area is made up of mixed landowners, it will provide immediate fuel reduction work and reduced wildfire to these adjacent landowners. Risk assessment in the WUI project area will be very important to make this project successful. I feel this project fits the Lincoln County WUI very well. It is in an area, which needs land management attention on the USFS lands now. I support this WUI project, and the opportunity to encourage other area landowners to be cooperators in this WUI risk reduction project for long-term protection. Troy has already witnessed what can be accomplished in WUI fuel reduction and risk project, with the recently completed Eastside WUI fuel reduction cooperative project. The Trojan Defense Project can provide the same results.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this very important high wildfire risk reduction project.

Sincerely,

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