Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/5/2024 12:11:14 AM

First name: Grant Last name: Barnard Organization:

Title:

Comments: Great idea to employ people and thin or prescibe burn our forests near the wildland urban interface to help protect the property of the people who insist on building there (WUI). But these mitigation projects need to: respect public comments, be light on the land (so a forest remains a true forest), NOT subsidize roads with taxpayer money, NOT include clear cutting of our forests. These thinning projects have become commercial endeavors in many of our forests. All projects need to be near the WUI, near roads, allow no clearcutting. There is little or no evidence that random clearcutting can protect our property from wildfires. And there is plenty of evidence and intuition that opening up our forests allows more solar heat to enter the forest and dry the ground and the low vegetation, thereby enhancing wildfire (not to mention making hiking and other recreation more difficult in hotter, drier land). Ever hike the Fielding Trail on the south side of Marias Pass since the USFS cut down the forest there? Way hotter than when it was a forest.