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First name: Katherine

Last name: Gaither

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi, my name is Katherine and I have been a resident of Helena for the past 14 years. My husband Joey and I met at Carroll in 2010 and have remained in Helena since, and have chosen to raise our son, Ezra, here as well. As a young family, we have serious concerns about the air quality in our city. We'd like for the forest service to please prioritize air quality when planning prescribed burns near Helena and other cities in Montana. One of the best parts of living in a place like Montana is spending time outdoors and away from some of the air pollution that comes along with living in a larger city. But what many people do not know is that forest fire smoke is actually one of the most dangerous types of pollution to inhale due to the size of the particles that comes with it. The next 20 years in Helena represent the entirety of my (and many other!)child's life. The less exposure to these air pollutants, the better. I know it is possible to mitigate severe fire risks and still clearly prioritize air quality, which in turn means prioritizing the quality of health for the children, and all residents, of Helena and the surrounding area. Please do not cut corners at the expense of our quality of life! Thank you for your consideration.