Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/21/2024 1:41:48 PM

First name: Mary Last name: Brown Organization:

Title:

Comments: I understand the risk level is extremely high, due to the abundance of excess fuel sources (dead wood and undergrowth). And I understand that it is because of this assessment that you are required to act. As an archaeologist, I am used to working with Federal and State entities. I know that the unfortunate issue is that Federal agencies are grossly underfunded, making it almost impossible for you to address this the safest way, which is hiring the staff necessary to clear the fuel source by hand, over time. I live at the very end of the highway, where the pavement ends and forest road begins, so I have great concern when it comes to fire danger, natural or human made. The truth is, given the risk, and the lack of proper funding to tackle it, the only viable option you have is to burn. I have obvious concerns for that in the Spring, because of high winds and previous history. I understand the logic is that Spring is best because we are coming out of the wet of Winter, but that logic is flawed, given that we are in a 28 year drought. We have no true 'wet' period. Not only is there a very high risk of things getting out of control with the wind, but our home is on the frontline, so it is also a risk to our lives and livelihood (I'm also an artist and my studio and work are in our home). Likewise, it would reduce our property value significantly if the views only included burned out forest, making any hope of selling and downsizing for retirement in the future a nightmare. On this issue, I would much rather contend with nature, which is under God's purview, than with the FS, which is at the mercy of human understanding and error. But ultimately I know that you must act, and you will. I only hope you will find some way to do so WITHOUT burning. Cost effectiveness at the expense of life and property should never be the 'best' option.