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Comments: One need only look at a search of wildfire news of the west, in Colorado, Oregon, Washington, California, Arizona and Montana to understand that thinning of USFS land is critical for long-term forest health and public safety. Like it or not, the urban-wildland interface is expanding in the Flathead Valley and a proactive approach to fuel mitigation will save lives and property.

My only suggestion is to expand the reach of the project northward from Lake Blaine along the base of the Swan Range, as a fire in that area would easily lap eastward over the mountains and into the Hungry Horse Dam area, threatening critical electrical transmission wires on the way.

We and other residents in this area whose property abuts Flathead National Forest are eager to see thinning and, in many cases, are willing to work with USFS and others for access.

Additionally, years of experience in the aviation industry lead me to believe that helicopter logging on this project might be an acceptable way to allay fears of new logging roads bringing trespassers to an otherwise inaccessible area.