Data Submitted (UTC 11): 6/17/2026 6:00:00 AM
First name: Raymond
Last name: Berry
Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear FS Officer.

Please add my name and contact information to the official roster of individuals to be notified of FS actions relative to this project, and include my comments in the official comment file.

74 years of age, I am a life long resident of the east bench of the Salt Lake Valley, and during my life I have spent thousands of hours recreating in Big Cottonwood Canyon. I am personally familiar with all the proposed treatment areas in this project.

My main concerns are as follows;

1. Air quality. Prescribed burns will produce significant smoke that will drift with natural diurnal air currents into the Salt Lake Valley. It would be unprofessional to pursue this project without first obtaining a detailed and thorough analysis of smoke impacts in the valley.

2. If the FS rationale is that prescribed fire smoke will be less than that produced by a natural wild fire, the FS should collect and analyze the current scientific information about the impact of thinning projects on the likelihood and intensity of future wild fire, specifically addressing the developing scientific consensus that thinning an prescribed fire on future fire frequency and intensity.

3. Most modern fire scientists recommend structural hardening as the only practical way to reduce the damage from forest fire. If the FS rejects that view, then it should present a thorough analysis making the case why the general rule is not applicable in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

4. An effective fire management program should concentrate on structural hardening. What are the FS plans for adopting that approach in Big Cottonwood Canyon?

In your response to this comment, please address the points listed above directly, and please share your response with the people of Salt Lake Valley.

Thank you.

Raymond Berry

Personal information redacted.