

To whom it may concern:

Regarding the proposed ordinance requesting owners to remove combustable fuel, I support the general intention.

1) However, I would like to see the ordinance specify the size of the area around buildings that will require brush reduction. I suggest that property owners are required to reduce brush and vegetation within 100' of each building. Additionally there should be the capacity for exceptions in cases where removal of brush could cause unwanted erosion or other property structural issues, such as drainage complications.

2) I suggest more exceptions be considered for the larger acreage parcels. In this case it is essential that the required clearing be along the driveway, the adjacent public road, and around each building. Owners of larger properties are limited in their capacity to manage brush across 20, 40, 100 acres. Additionally it is not necessarily in the best interest of the forest that it be managed.

3) As a consideration to our forests and for our more rural neighbors living on acreage, I would like to see an encouragement towards wood chipping rather than burning in the process of eliminating excessive vegetation. Wood chips, if spread out in the forest are a natural mulch for our forests, and return the trimmings as compost, enriching the soil, and cooling the ground.

3) Please directly address subdivision requirements where the subdivision is privately maintained. Within the Sherwood corridor, the Gates and Sherwood Ranch are governed by a board, are non profit, and maintain their own roads.

Thank you for this proposal. If done right it will be an important step in creating safer communities.

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