

Jamey,

My husband and I bought our cabin at 1061 FS Rd 4517 in 2006, back when there were only a few homes up there. Since then, we have had a few scares related to wildfire risk and I wanted to share those with you and relay my concerns with this proposal.

Back on September 10, 2012, we were in Seattle and got a short message from one of the neighbors in Granite Creek that there had been a lightning strike and there was a fire on the west side of the BPA Transmission Lines a mile or two north of our cabin. We were unable to get any details, so were fearful of the worst. We got in our car and drove up to see what was going on and to see if we could help and also find out if there would be a need to evacuate some of our things. We drove FS Rd 4517 past Little Creek and then to the Y intersection and made a left turn up the hill. We found a ground crew already working on it and they had it under control. We realized then how much worse it could have been.

Then in August 2014, there was a big fire just beyond the ridge west of Granite Creek. Initially we couldn't smell smoke, but the next morning we woke to the smell of smoke in our bedroom and the taste in our mouth. We could see the smoke beyond the ridge, and we saw helicopters dropping water on it. Planes with fire retardant flew directly over FS Rd 4517 on the way to the fire, and we could actually see them releasing it at times. We didn't know if the firefighters would be able to keep the fire from going over the ridge. It took some time for them to get the fire under control, a couple weeks or so. During that time, we were not able to enjoy our property because it was too smokey. We ended up going to other areas in the region and then leaving until things improved. Thankfully, the fire crews were able to keep the fire from going over the ridge. In September, my husband and I drove back to see some of the burned-out area, and I've attached a few photos from that. You can see how close the fire was to going over the ridge.

I have been worried in recent years when fires threatened the communities over by Roslyn. As droughts worsen due to climate change, I am concerned that we will lose a lot more areas to fire. Some other states have prevented visitors from entering forest lands during severe drought. We experienced that first hand when we visited New Mexico. As you know, we have high winds in Cle Elum, so any fire could spread rapidly if the conditions are right.

Our community has experienced people from outside the area bring ATV's, motorcycles etc. and some people come up to shoot guns up in the woods. I often hear gunshots since the sound carries so easily here. The RV's or others in the development will likely have propane tanks, or other flammable materials. People from outside our community don't often understand the fire risk, and don't take appropriate precautions. This proposed development will bring a constant stream of people from outside the area. While some of these folks will act appropriately, we know from experience that some will not. A fire up here would be devastating and could result in loss of life. There is only one way out of this community. The risk is too great to allow this development to proceed.

Respectfully,

Diane Berge, Professional Civil Engineer (retired)

(See attached photos)

September 10, 2012, Wildfire about 2 miles from our property.



August 2014, Granite Creek and fire beyond the ridge. Top photo has plane flying to the fire. Both show Granite Creek Sign at intersection of Powder Drive & High Mark Drive. In the bottom photo, that is FS Rd 4517 in the foreground.



September 2014, We drove back to see the fire damage Note how close the fire came to crossing over the ridge.

