

Chair Golden & Committee members,

For the record, my name is Artemio Paz Jr. I have lived for 53 years on Cedar Flat Road, in the Lower McKenzie Valley of the Western Cascades. I had never been notified to evacuate because of fire danger until the Holiday Farm Fire in September of 2020. My wife and I plus our dog evacuated for 14 days to west Eugene where the sky on most days was an orange tint which limited visibility and respiratory ability.

Because of that experience, I wish to make 2 points: 1) identify critical exit routes from WUI areas that provide an exit route for multiple neighborhoods, ie such as the ridge crossing road of Cedar Flat Road to Wallace Creek Road that serves as a dedicated ridge roadway for two discreet groups on either side of the same ridge that may want to flee wildfire dangers (these are unique roadways in the Oregon's forested WUI landscapes); 2) for the last decade and a half, neglected car bodies, deserted cars and partially deconstructed car and trucks, in addition, to exceeding owner vehicle permitted vehicles are on F-2 properties in the WUI that constitute fire hazards to first responders and residents when wildfires occur in our woodlands. Please enforce, through wildfire recovery regulations, laws that will eliminate such hazards.

Respectfully Submitted,
Artemio Paz Jr.