

## **CONVERSATION #1 PROMPT**

You are a 4th-generation resident of Happy Town, Colorado and you recently purchased your dream home near where you grew up. You love listening to the wind in the trees and enjoying privacy from your neighbors. Last year you invested \$20,000 into home hardening efforts, and you are proud of your work!

You are a medical doctor. You love to help people, and you love to see science saving lives.

Recently, a land management agency proposed a massive tree-cutting operation adjacent to your neighborhood to prevent wildfires. You know from research you did about home-hardening that home-hardening is by far the most effective way to protect your home from wildfire. Now, you're losing privacy and the familiarity of the landscape you grew up on for 'wildfire mitigation'.

You have raised concerns at a few community meetings, but nobody listens. The land managers talk down on you as if you don't understand science, but you are a doctor! You feel belittled and frustrated.

Here are a few additional pieces of information:

- All of the studies listed in the project planning documents are based on computer *models*. They are not rooted in on-the-ground evidence and could easily be biased toward timber.
- Fire is a natural part of the ecosystem. Agencies should allow it to return to the landscape, and instead help landowners with home-hardening.
- You suspect that this project is probably an effort to "revitalize the timber industry" hence why they're cutting so many trees. You see no need to revitalize an industry that has caused so much damage to forests in other places.

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**While out hiking, you encounter someone from the land management agency heading toward their truck. You're normally cool, calm, and collected, but today you're frustrated!**

**You say: "Let me guess, you're out here marking trees for your timber project?"**

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**Wait to read Conversation #2 prompt until you've completed Conversation #1.**

## **CONVERSATION #2 PROMPT:**

You work for a land management agency in Colorado, covering a county with high fire risk and lots of high-dollar values at risk. Your most recent project is a thin and burn project designed near a wealthy mountain community. You have worked closely with an interdisciplinary team to ensure the project will have a positive impact on residents, water quality, forest health, and wildlife. Local residents have mostly seemed pleased that you are doing work that will benefit them in the long run.

The project area that you've identified includes a hiking trail. Until recently, the trail was relatively non-trafficked, but in the past few months, it has gone viral on social media as one of the 'best hidden gems in Colorado.' Suddenly, the work you've done to engage the local community over many months seems worthless, as you have gotten dozens of angry comments from tourists who don't want to see the trail rerouted.

[Throughout the conversation, please feel free to fill in gaps with information about a project you are working on or have worked on in the past]

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**Seeing an uptick in negative comments, you volunteer to speak at one of the local neighborhoods' HOA meetings. About halfway through the meeting, you get a question from Person B. [person B has the first line in this prompt]**