

## **CONVERSATION #1 PROMPT**

You work for a land management agency in Happy Town, Colorado. You love living here. The town is at high risk for wildfire, and you're proud to be part of an innovative cross-boundary fuels reduction project that will help the community.

Your agency has utilized top-of-the-line risk assessment technology to identify high-priority treatment areas based on community values, economic opportunity, wildlife habitat, recreation opportunities, and more. Using these models, you've identified the first few areas to start implementing some thinning projects, which you plan to follow up with prescribed fire on in a few years. This project incorporates it all: wildfire mitigation, forest health, recreation, wildlife. One organization is even partnering with you to start a community science project where community members will help with water quality monitoring.

Despite your excitement, some community members are anti-land-management and are angry about the project. You've hosted community meetings to try to help them understand the science behind what you're doing, but nobody seems to be listening! They come to these meetings armed with a few articles from the internet, but you've been fully immersed in this since day one.

[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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**You've just finished taking inventory on a parcel of the proposed project area. You're heading back to your work truck to head home for the day, when you see a hiker approaching you. [person A has the first line in this prompt]**

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

## **CONVERSATION #2 PROMPT**

You are the proud newest member of the community of Mountain City, Colorado! You moved to this city from Seattle. Though you live in town so you can be close to work, your heart is in the mountains. You drive ~30 minutes into the mountains every weekend to hike and camp. Here, you feel connected and at peace.

Last week, you arrived to your favorite trail and found signs telling you that the trail is being re-routed to avoid a thin-and-burn operation. You can already envision stumps everywhere, tire tracks, blackened trees. You've seen this before - being from Seattle, you know all about the unsustainable timber harvesting that decimated pacific northwestern forests in the 60s and 70s.

Upon further research, you discover the following:

- All the speakers at the community meetings are foresters - this means they are trained in timber production, not recreation or wildlife!
- This wildfire mitigation project aims to protect a subdivision of mansions built in the last 20 years - these wealthy homeowners should have known better than to build here.
- In any case, science shows that home-hardening is the best way to protect these mansions from wildfire - destroying the pristine forest won't stop wildfire anyway.

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**You take a day off work to drive up to a local HOA meeting, the only opportunity you've found to engage with the project. When it's your turn at the mic, you start with this question:**

**“Have you learned nothing from the pacific northwest? Timber harvesting is detrimental to the environment! If you wanted to protect these mansions you'd invest in home-hardening, but instead you choose to decimate our public lands because what you really want is profit.”**