

Mary Cooke

PORTLAND OR RPDC 972

19 OCT 2024 PM 6 L

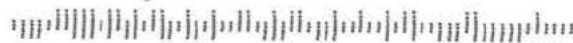
As in past elections,
USPS is ready.

if you choose to vote by mail,
please mail early.



Umatilla N.F. Supervisor's Office
Attn: Blue Mts. Forest Plan Revision
72510 Coyote Road
Pendleton, OR 97801

97801-100210



10/18/24

Mary Cooke

To: Blue Mountains Forest Plan

Please read my comments.
This is my only letter to
you.

When USFS does thin
our forest, please regard
the aspect and micro-
climate.

In 2016, a lot of Ponderosa
pines were taken from
the "Fourth Switchback"
area on the road to
Moss Springs (6220). The
timing couldn't be worse.
Mid-June meant our
warblers & thrushes were
still incubating or feeding
their young. When the
project was finished,
the southwest face
caused rapid drying and
degeneration of the
entire ecosystem.

On the "Third Switchback"
of 6220 (300 road) two spurs

go off to the right.
Both are crossed by
abundant springs
which created vernal
pools. In the past,
they produced many
frogs and salamanders.
I also found a large
toad beside the
lower spur (342?)

These roads are
perfect for walking.
I have written several
times pleading to have
them closed.

Every year someone
drives through the
pools which are severely
degraded now. The
second spur (306) is
very short. No reason
to drive on it ever!

I know these examples
are very local. I am
sure similar places

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exist throughout our forests. Vehicles and careless tree removal are a huge threat to the entire ecosystem. Please protect more of it. Give us more places to walk at different elevations.

My eyes & ears are tuned to the health of these places. My feet do the minimum of damage as I observe which plants & animals remain. I have discovered many rare plants and local areas of botanical diversity. Some depend on better protection from traffic now.

Thank-you.

Sincerely,

Mary Cooke