

September 23, 2025

To the USFS  
Forest Plan Revision

From the beginning of Oregon Statehood, the Wallowa Whitman Forest has always been an open travel forest. This has enabled all the public to fully use the General Forest for all their needs, such as gathering firewood to heat their homes or camping to get away from the congestion of others. An open forest has also allowed family outings that include berry picking and collecting mushrooms.

We are not asking for more areas to do these activities, but we do want to keep the rights of access we currently have and use that access to recreate and enhance our way of life. This is why it is so important that it is not taken away from us.

To improve the Forest Plan as it is now written, we ask that you add the verbiage to the plan to keep the open forest. I believe that the forest Service is trying to close more areas and take away our free and rightful use.

A free and open forest listing will keep us forest users from having to fight for our God given rights every year as we have for the past twenty-five years.

Thank you,

Bill Harvey