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Re BMFRP and Travel Management and Road System

I am writing to show my support for keeping our public lands open for travel by our public citizens. The 1990 Forest Plan established open forest for travel as it had been in place since the Oregon Territory was established and should remain open for our use.

Sadly, every time the Forest Service makes a new plan, they have historically reduced the amount of open forest land for our use. Reducing the amount of our roads (access) that we have restricts the ability to properly manage our forest. This has stopped timber sales and thinning projects which reduce the fuel load currently found in most of the forest.

The management of our Forest Lands is so bad, it adds to the size and scope of the wildfires we experience every year, destroying more of our forest. The forest available for motorized use is only 25% of the general forest and is only going to be reduced by plans being proposed.

The road system developed throughout the past 80 years was for the purpose of timber production with thinning projects every 15-20 years for the purpose of protecting our lands from uncontrollable wildfire due to heavy fuel loads as poor management and neglect.

The road system we have has saved lives by allowing people who are camping, hunting or just using the public lands to escape from coming wildfires and allowing firefighters to attack fires more quickly.

Protect our forest and our livelihood and economy of our small communities by keeping our road system open.

Bill Harvey