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November 10, 2026

Whitman Ranger District
1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A
Baker City, OR 97814

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Whitman Post-Fire Recovery Project. I look forward to the Whitman District and the entire Wallowa Whitman following the new Post Fire Timber Salvage process that should drastically reduce the time it takes to conduct NEPA and prepare burned timber for salvage harvest. https://usfs-public.app.box.com/s/7sqtkwmabhz3z5n6uyrq87v25m5s8v58/file/2309448798413 The sooner we can get the fire killed timber out into the market place the better the chance to capture the value. There will be considerable opportunity for salvaging substantial volume of burned timber from the 2026 fire season. I encourage the Forest Service to move quickly while burned timber still has commercial value.

The summer of 2026 wildfires were destructive. The Post Fire Timber Salvage process offers land managers an opportunity to implement the 2025 executive order on expanding American timber production, federal strategies aim to scale annual timber output toward 4 billion board feet. This action will contribute to the Federal Treasury, add jobs for local logging contractors, trucking companies while improving the economic viability of both local mills in the region and the communities that depend on the timber industry.

The USFS is now in a position to salvage burnt timber, address soil erosion and improve overall forest health. I encourage the Whitman Ranger District to prioritize economically viable salvage opportunities, communicate its timeline, and work with local industry and elected officials. Please let me know what steps that I can take to support you in this work.

Sincerely,

Paul Anderes

Paul Anderes, Union County Commissioner