Via: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/wallowa-whitman/projects/446982

November 12, 2026

Jeremy Aujero, District Ranger
Whitman Ranger District
1550 Dewey Avenue, Suite A
Baker City, Oregon 97814

In Reply To: Whitman Post-Fire Recovery Project

Dear Mr. Aujero:

American Forest Resource Council (AFRC) is a regional trade association whose purpose is to advocate for sustained yield timber harvests on public timberlands throughout the West to enhance forest health and resistance to fire, insects, and disease. We do this by promoting active management to attain productive public forests, protect adjoining private forests, and assure community stability. We work to improve federal and state laws, regulations, policies and decisions regarding access to and management of public forest lands and protection of all forest lands. AFRC represents over 50 forest product businesses and forest landowners throughout the West. Many of our members have their operations in communities adjacent to the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest and the management on these lands ultimately dictates not only the viability of their businesses, but also the economic health of the communities themselves.

We're pleased to see that the Whitman District is proposing post-fire treatments, including timber salvage, on lands impacted by wildfire that will likely provide useful timber products to our membership. Our members depend on a predictable and economical supply of timber products off Forest Service land to run their businesses and to provide useful wood products to the American public. Salvage treatments in the wake of high severity fire are a critical component of a sustainable timber management paradigm.

We are also pleased to see that the District is utilizing the recently completed Nationwide Post Fire Recovery Environmental Analysis (EA) to comply with NEPA. AFRC actively engaged with the Forest Service during the development of that EA and we're optimistic that it will assist the Forest Service in expanding and accelerating post fire recovery activities, particularly those of a timely nature. As such, we are also pleased to see that the project has been approved as an authorized emergency action under Section 40807 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Effective recovery of fire-damaged timber products is contingent on expedient implementation and the tools being employed by the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will assist in that expediency.

AFRC is happy to be involved in the planning and decision-making process for the Whitman Post-Fire Recovery Project. Should you have any questions regarding the above comments, please contact me at 541-620-4466 or ijerome@amforest.org.

Sincerely,



Irene K. Jerome
AFRC Consultant
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