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Comments: From: Brian Kelly <brian@hellscanyon.org <mailto:brian@hellscanyon.org> >

Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 8:54:24 AM

To: Watrud, Eric J -FS

Subject: welcome back & Ellis project

Hi Eric,

I hope that you and your staff are doing well and getting back into the swing of things after the shutdown. I truly hope that the federal government will continue to fund Forest Service staff to manage the public lands without further interruption.

I really appreciate you meeting with me and Rob Klavins of Oregon Wild a while back. I look forward to continued conversations about the national forests that we all treasure.

In that spirit, I feel I should share some concerns we have about the proposed Ellis project. You may have seen these concerns described in our scoping comments. I won't try to duplicate those comments, but I have copied four paragraphs below to flag for you at an executive level some of our thoughts about the Ellis project proposal.

I am grateful for your attention to our concerns. I look forward to future discussions about this proposed project and other aspects of the unique and wonderful Umatilla National Forest.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to us for any reason. I look forward to future discussions.

Best wishes,

Brian Kelly

From the Ellis project scoping comments:

"Preliminary review of the proposed action shows that some aspects of the project would potentially be aligned with the above criteria. In particular, we appreciate and support efforts to improve hydrology of wet meadows, implement prescribed burning at a landscape level, and improve habitat for wildlife.

However, we have significant concerns and questions that we hope will be addressed as this project moves forward. Notably, the proposed action would authorize intensive logging over the vast majority of this very large project area. The forests that would remain after logging would be quite sparse, according to the targeted basal areas, and would include regeneration cuts (e.g. clearcuts). This level of heavy logging and the extent of its impacts raise a number of concerns including negative impacts to canopy cover, wildlife habitat, water quality, and carbon sequestration. Timber production should not come at the expense of the public forest.

We understand that the Purpose and Need statement for this project identifies needs to "aid in protecting values at risk; promote the health and safety of public and firefighters; and contribute to social, cultural, and economic needs." However, these needs could be effectively achieved through limited vegetation treatments on specific and strategic locations on the landscape to assist fire managers in the event of a wildfire, rather than widespread and heavy logging across more than one hundred thousand acres.

For example, according to the National Fire Protection Association, "Experiments, models and post-fire studies have shown homes ignite due to the condition of the home and everything around it, up to 200' from the foundation. This is called the Home Ignition Zone (HIZ)." <https://www.nfpa.org/Public-Education/By-topic/Wildfire/Preparing-homes-for-wildfire>"

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