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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Three documents were attached, this is the text:

Climate Change

For over 120 years, most of our forests have been under the control of the Forest Service. History shows that for thousands of years we have had droughts on and off and during that time there have been fires. It is only during the last fifty years that we have had catastrophic wildfires, and this is due to failed management from the Forest Service.

This is because we no longer remove the excessive fuel loads through logging, thinning, and spraying for infestation. None of the above mentions is caused by the [ldquo]so-called[rdquo] climate change but reflects mismanagement of our public lands and forests. We have had changes in climate conditions for thousands of years, but only recently have they become mega-wildfires because of overcrowding of our forests with fuel loads.

If the Forest Service really does want to help with clean air, then it needs to clean up the forests dead growth and fallen trees so more grass and vegetation can grow to support wildlife. I encourage you to trust the science that has proved effective in the past and not turn to false science and propaganda.

Bill Harvey

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Wilderness

The Forest Service is again proposing more wilderness zones within Baker County. They are doing this without having any study to show the need for more wilderness.

A great deal of newly proposed wilderness is overlaid on two Baker city watershed and private property including an existing mining claim dating back to the 1860[rsquo]s. This newest attempt tries to take land away from the congressional mandate of multiple use for our forests here in Baker County. For the past 20 years, the citizens of our county have had to defend against the overreach of the Forest Service who has been bent on making our forests into wilderness.

We have repeatedly said [ldquo]NO[rdquo] every year and the Forest Service will not listen, and this year is even worse than ever before. There is [ldquo]NO[rdquo] need for more wilderness in Baker County and your Forest Service has no right to border private property which puts owners in danger. Wildfires may start on [ldquo]so called wilderness[rdquo] and the Forest Service will not fight the fires until they are out of control and then cross private lands. Bordering wilderness next to private property will encourage trespassing as people try to gain access. Who is going to pay for the damage done to the private property owner?

The Forest Service already blocks multiple use on 75% of our forest within Baker County including wilderness, roadless areas, Hell[rsquo]s canyon recreation restrictions, wild and scenic rivers and set aside study areas.

I ask that you remove all additional proposed wilderness recommendations from your plan revision attempts. I would suggest that there be [ldquo]NO[rdquo] new proposed wilderness recommendations.

Bill Harvey

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Grazing

Wilderness

By adding more wilderness areas to the existing amount of wilderness it would remove land from grazing use and greatly reduce cattle numbers in Baker County. The Agricultural industry amounts to around 93 million dollars yearly income to the economy of our county. This industry is the largest industry for Baker County and the community depends greatly on this income for the livelihood through direct and indirect industries.

The current condition of our forests is extremely diminished by lack of forest maintenance such as logging or thinning and has created extreme overcrowding, and increased fuel loads. Grazing is essential to removing ground cover grasses and brushes to reduce wildfire threats and grazing has historically been beneficial within Baker County for over 170 years.

In closing, this effort to reduce land available to grazing will do far more harm than good for the needs of citizens of Baker and surrounding counties of eastern Oregon. Baker County's economy depends on this wise use of our natural resources.