Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/4/2024 7:44:29 PM
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Comments: I am retired U.S. Forest Service, Region One, Engineering. As a member of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), I provide guidance to RAF State Liaisons for participation in public agency planning activities.

In reviewing the Final Assessment Report I noticed numerous places that could have had AIRSTRIPS added to the statements. I passed the notice to the Oregan RAF State Liaison, Bill Ables who did a total review of the Final Assessment Report and submitted it as a comment. I suggest a review of his submission and an inclusion of airstrips in your final document.

For some reason FSH 1909.12 Chapter 10 2015 cannot be downloaded. I have downloaded the WO Amendment 1909.12_2015 Chapter 20 and highlighted airstrips in the document. (See attachment) My excerpts from Chapter 10 state: FSH 1909.12_ zero_ code; Recreation opportunities include non-motorized, motorized, developed, and dispersed recreation on land, water, and in the AIR. Page 16
Chapter 10 Infrastructure states: Infrastructure can include facilities for energy generation or transport, communications, water delivery, transportation (INCLUDING AIRSTRIPS), or recreation.

My involvement in numerous planning meetings since the establishment of the 2012 Planning Rule has established that follow on plans (Travel, Recreation, etc.) are dictated to management topics covered in the Plan.

If topics such as airstrips are not included in the Assessment, they will fail to be mentioned in the Plan because of lack of information on; why they are there, what do they provide to the Forest, and how are they maintained.

The subject of how they are maintained is important because The RAF has MOUs, and cost agreement with the Forest Service. Congress for the past ten years has designated $750,000 of the Forest Service Appropriation to the maintenance of airstrips. State pilot associations and The RAF have been successful in providing work parties for maintenance of airstrips.

One last topic. Airline Pilots retire in very large numbers, many continue to fly and are using airplanes to engage in recreational activities such as hiking, camping, other outdoor activities, and adding distance to their travels.