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First name: Terry

Last name: George

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision Assessment Need for Change 72510 Coyote Rd. Pendleton, Oregon 97801 Dear Blue Mt. Forest Plan Assessment Team. I am Terry George, a resident of Austin, Oregon. I am writing regarding your Need for Change Document. In reading your document it was hard to believe the lack of interest you show in the natural resources of eastern Oregon. The natural resources of Grant County are the life blood for everyone who lives here, the sawmills, timber contractors, local citizens, miners, businessmen, schools, churches, road departments, ranchers, farmers, in some form they are all dependent on the timber resources from our land. It is my hope you will pay more attention to the health of our forest and return it to the healthy forest it once was back in the fifties and sixties. If you had maintained the forest like it was back then, you would not be dealing with the mess you have today. I think the forest service needs to spend more time working in the forest and spending less time planning on how to keep the public out, you need to include Fire in your document, there is a great need for change in fire, instead of trying to use fire as the lazy man's way of cleaning up the forest. If you take the money congress gives you for fire and use it to clean up the forest by hiring contractors to do your thinning projects, put out four or five timber sales a year instead of one. I think you would be surprised at the progress and how quickly you would start seeing positive results with each contract you let out. Now you try to burn it out and you are really not making any headway, you set it on fire or allow lightning strikes to burn out of control, where homes are burned, wildlife is killed, vegetation is destroyed, ranchers lose cattle, fences and grazing plots, then you have the destruction of timber which you let stand until it falls and ends up in a pile on the ground. Then you are back to square one again. When you destroy a tree in Eastern Oregon you are destroying someone's house, their heat for the winter, the lumber to build their home or do upgrades on their property, I know the Forest Plan Revision is the foundation for Travel Management, please remember if you close the roads you take away the access to fight fire and you decrease public safety. Thank You for the opportunity to participate in the Need for Change Planning portion of the Blue Mountain Forest Plan Revision. Sincerely Terry L. George