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Comments: Please see my attached letter.

NEED FOR CHANGE COMMENTS 11-7-20241 | P a g e The Need to Change proposal from the USFS is drastically different from the Need to change issues from those who live, recreate, collect cultural resources for their families, make their living, and have the need for the "human environment" experience. There is a disconnect with the communities that live near or in the forest system and the USFS whose main existence was to manage forest system. I have experienced watching the decline and mismanagement of the USFS forest system for the past 40 years. The need to change must be a shift from an iron fist, totalitarian, stay off the forest approach to the 1990 forest plan approach that the USFS should have been implementing but refuses because of environmental activist cult mentality. Here is an example of one of thousands of people harassed by the USFS. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mgj3lBqxZpI> Need to change includes the USFS doing their job cleaning up the horrible conditions of the forest. This is what they were created to do. It appears they have lost their way completely from what they were designed to do. The BILLIONS OF DOLLARS WASTED on the forest plans designed to take people off the landscape, do nothing approach. Unfortunately, there is an incentive to let the fires get bigger to collect millions of dollars in FEMA money once the fire reaches a certain size. This should be criminal. I thought the motto was "Caring for the land and serving the people". The only people that this is serving is special interest groups. The financial costs of fires that have destroyed communities, lives of human, animal, and plant life is unsurmountable. Every fire season those left behind in the dust will never recoup the losses incurred by a bad neighbor, which is the USFS. I have attended county commission meetings while a USFS supervisor justifies these plans, but can not answer the questions on the value of communities that are destroyed by forest mismanagement. Why has the USFS ignored the public time and time again as they try and introduce the same plan, but in a different way as if trying to shove it down the public's throat using a different method by hook or by crook as long as the end justifies the means? Recently the public within the three forests of the BLM were united together keep saying NO. Do you think that using BIC or some other patsy will get you to your goal? This just makes the public trust even worse. Chris French withdrew the BLM plan because of the way it was written and handled. The need to change should include listening to the public directly affected and going away from trying to shove these bad plans down our throats. Just do your job. Log, Mine, and graze. Stay out of the activism business! The USFS should not be an "OK FOR ME, BUT NOT FOR THEE" agency. The USFS should have to abide by any forest plan that a private landowner has to follow. The bad neighbor next door which is the USFS is the cause for the loss of life and property who also have obliterated many communities across the nation. After decades of failed forest plans and mismanagement you would think that the motto, Caring for the land and Serving the people would be more than virtue signaling. The need for change should remove anything uttering "sustainable", "climate change", "restoration", or any of the other agenda items listed in the United Nations Sustainability actions. This is activism has no place for common sense management of the land. If the USFS can't do their job then the states can take back the land and manage it themselves. It is clear from the Legislative Hearing | Federal Lands Subcommittee in April of 2024. Across the board comments show the same frustration and distrust. Just the fact that millions of dollars are wasted with these forest plans show that the USFS is not transparent in the money that could be spent logging. It is not just litigation that prevents the USFS from doing its job. It's the Trojan horse within and the hiring of activists within the USFS that are a major problem. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKEqMLGzm4&t=2747s> How much money was spent from the day the BLM was discussed to the date of the withdrawal? Here is a quote from the latest budget proposal: NEED FOR CHANGE COMMENTS 11-7-20243 | P a g e "LEI has proposed a series of programmatic activities that align with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Legislation. Equating to a 1-year additional investment of \$17.9 million, 3-year additional investment of \$42.6 million or 5-year additional investment of \$75.1 million.

Sustainability and perseverance of LEI to meet the objectives of the BIL would be accomplished through organizational growth. LEI's organization has 544 sworn personnel currently working; seven of which are funded from outside of LEI funding sources. The proposal highlights an increased ability LEI will have to ensure public compliance with fire closure orders, fostering knowledge of the importance of fire safety and responsibilities. Participation in fire severity patrols, conducting wildfire cause and origin investigations and presentation of criminal and civil cases to the United States Attorney's Offices for prosecutorial consideration. The totalitarian forest plans have turned innocent citizens into criminals. The USFS has 544 law enforcement officers writing tickets for petty non constitutional policies. This is a need for change. Most of the 75.1 MILLION DOLLARS CAN BE CUT and used to begin logging again. How much money was spent destroying roads? Let's see what the budget request says: For necessary expenses of the Forest Service, not otherwise provided for, [\$158,048,000] \$235,000,000, to remain 3 available through September 30, 2026 2027, for construction, capital improvement, maintenance, and acquisition of 4 buildings and other facilities and infrastructure; and for construction, reconstruction, and decommissioning of roads 5 that are no longer needed, including unauthorized roads that are not part of the transportation system[,]; and for 6 maintenance of forest roads and trails by the Forest Service as authorized by 16 U.S.C. 532-538 and 23 U.S.C. 101 7 and 205: Provided, That [\$6,000,000] \$15,000,000 shall be for activities authorized by 16 U.S.C. 538(a): Provided 8 further, That [\$5,048,000] shall be for projects specified for Construction Projects in the table titled "Interior and 9 Environment Incorporation of Community Project Funding Items/Congressionally Directed Spending Items" 10 included for this division in the explanatory statement described in section 4 (in the matter preceding division A of 11 this consolidated Act): Provided further, That funds becoming available in fiscal year 2023 under the Act of March 12 4, 1913 (16 U.S.C. 501) shall be transferred to the General Fund of the Treasury and shall not be available for 13 transfer or obligation for any other purpose unless the funds are appropriated] of the funds provided for facilities 14 maintenance and construction, \$60,000,000 shall be for installation of charging stations and related infrastructure to 15 make national forests more accessible to visitors operating zero emission vehicles. In 2023, over 130 projects were submitted for Legacy Roads and Trails program funding. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funding for the Legacy Roads and Trails program funded nearly 100 of the submitted projects. These projects focused on road and trail improvements to prevent storm damage and improve resilience, culvert and bridge replacement to restore fish habitat, and decommissioning of unauthorized and closed roads to protect water quality A) An increase of \$9,000,000 would support on-going Legacy Roads and Trails activities. The funding would be used to fund agreements and projects that improve resilience, ensure continued access, restore habitat, and mitigate detrimental impacts to sensitive ecosystems and watersheds. Program funds would be used to replace undersized culverts with structures that restore aquatic organism passage, improve road and trail resilience by hardening surfaces, reroute roads and trails out of flood prone areas, and add or improve drainage features. Funds

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would be used to protect watershed resources by decommissioning unauthorized routes. Additionally, funds would be used for additional work that promotes climate adaptation, and restore areas with unneeded roads and trails to a more natural state B) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND MAINTENANCE PROJECTS OVER \$1 MILLION SELECTED IN 2024 The Forest Service has a structured National Asset Management Program (NAMP) that incorporates the Comprehensive Capital Improvement Plan (CCIP) process. The NAMP prioritizes investments in capital improvement and maintenance projects and helps reduce the Forest Service's deferred maintenance backlog. These projects will address improvements, repairs and rehabilitation of mission critical buildings, recreation sites, transportation assets and the decommissioning of projects. All capital improvement and maintenance projects, whether they are funded through the Capital Improvement and Maintenance (CIM) appropriation or through the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) (P.L. 116-152), are included in the NAMP. Per Congressional directive in the 2018 Interior Appropriations report, the Forest Service is providing a list of planned national capital improvement and maintenance projects over \$1 million. This list represents a long-term multi-year plan that addresses needed investments in facilities, recreation, transportation, and decommissioning based on the 2024 Budget request and using the NAMP prioritization process. This list includes projects that would be funded with Forest Service appropriations under the following

budgetline items: Facilities (CMFC), Forest Service Leases and Maintenance (FSLM), and Roads (CMRD); it does not include projects that would be funded by the National Parks and Public Lands Restoration Fund established by GAOA.C) Legacy Roads and Trails Current Activities The Legacy Roads and Trails program, provides for urgently needed road decommissioning where inaction can lead to water quality issues in streams and water bodies which support threatened and endangered species (TES) or community water systems. Road decommissioning activities include restoring lands occupied by roads to a more natural state. Roads to be decommissioned include both system roads and unauthorized roads that exist on NFS lands that are adversely affecting TES or community water systems. Decommissioning of roads is normally not an allowable use of appropriations under 23 U.S.C. 205 (Forest development roads and trails); however, Congress has included language in annual appropriations bills authorizing use of Capital Improvement and Maintenance funds for road decommissioning. Projects include removal or replacement of stream crossing structures that are barriers to aquatic organism passage; road and trail repair and improvements and associated activities in environmentally sensitive areas; and repair and improvements on roads and trails subject to recent storm damage. These roads and trails have been identified as priority projects due to their immediate impact on water resources and ecosystem function. Operating a safe and efficiently sized road and trail system, designed and maintained to be minimally impactful on the environment, enables us to sustain our Nation's forests and grasslands and deliver benefits to the public. Work accomplished through this program plays an integral part in restoration work carried out by complementary programs such as Forest Management, Hazardous Fuels, and Vegetation and Watershed Management. All of the money spent on destroying roads which are a vital asset to the forest and the counties surrounding the forest system is another reason the USFS had FAILED AT DOING THE JOB THEY WERE DESIGNED TO DO. This type of waste defies any logic. The activist mentality is what has caused the destruction of access to fight fires, clean fuel loads, and provide recreational benefits. In 2005, when-NEED FOR CHANGE COMMENTS 11-7-20245 | Page the decision that roads were the devil clearly has been proven wrong, yet the taxpayers are flipping the bill in the tune of \$235,000,000+ all of the other areas the money is pulled from such as the Legacy Roads and Trails program. The legacy roads and trails program title is a joke. If this is now destroying roads and trails rather than maintaining them or leaving them alone then that program needs to be destroyed as well by defunding. Don't cry about not having enough money when you are wasting money that is creating more fire danger. You have no idea that actions like this are what causes mismanagement and why the forest is in the horrible shape it is in. This is on you. Blaming NEPA, litigation, or any other excuse is not acceptable. This is a need for change! If the USFS was a business, they would have been bankrupt decades ago.

Project	2024	2025	2026
Decommissioning Ericson Dam Idaho Panhandle National Forests Northern ID 3	1,240,000	-	-
Decommissioning South Park Lake George Pike-San Isabel National Forest Rocky Mountain CO 1	513,939	-	-
Decommissioning Harrison Experimental Forest Southern Research Station Southern Research Station MS 2	1,606,000	-	-
Decommissioning 0915 Bunker Removal Group 63 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Eastern IL 6	1,441,384	-	-
Decommissioning 0915-Bunker Demolition Group 66a2 Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie Eastern IL 6	1,076,822	-	-
Decommissioning Parsons Reservoir Dam Removal and Associated Stream Restoration Monongahela National Forest Eastern WV 2	2,060,000	-	-
Decommissioning Allison Dam Removal Nez Perce National Forest Northern ID 3	2,060,000	-	-
Total Decommissioning	4,359,939	8,698,206	-
Grand Total	21,326,979	21,564,538	11,934,447

Dams hold water for storage to fight fires. Our taxpayer dollars were wasted on destroying infrastructure that has a larger benefit than the excuses from the environmental activist cults claim. There was a good reason the dams were there in the first place. Once again, no one should have any empathy for crying I'm too poor to have money to fight fires. These actions are why the forest is in such poor shape. This too is a need to change. The need for change should be a top-down cutting approach in funding and programs that are the cause for the forest mismanagement. President Trump will be requested to take on such a task. The billions of dollars given to do a job is not being done. Throwing more money at a liability is not the answer. The 1990 plan has some activity agenda items, but it is more balanced and favorable to logging, mining and grazing. The roadless rule needs to be removed and the 21-inch rule needs to be removed. Obviously the USFS won't follow the 1990 plan based on current progress items stated in the budget request. That is a problem with your administration. A new plan to fit the climate cult ideology goes against the 1990 plan and I oppose anymore nonsense trying to shove the status quo changes down the

throats of communities the USFS has destroyed. A need for change is coming when President Trump clean house. The need to change is now. What you have been doing since 1990 is not working. Doing the same thing over and over is the definition of insanity. Should that be the new mission statement you will be labeled for or will you do the right thing and kick the special interest cults to the curb?