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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Blue Mountains Forest Plan 10/18/2024

Please read my comments. This is my only letter to you. When USFS does thin our forest, please regard the aspect and micro-climate.

In 2016, a lot of ponderosa pines were taken from the "fourth switchback" area on the road to Moss Springs (6220). The timing couldn't be worse. Mid-June meant our warblers and thrashers were still incubating or feeding their young. When the project was finished, the southwest face caused rapid drying and degeneration of the entire ecosystem.

On the "third switchback" of 6220 (300 road) two spurs go off to the right. Both are crossed by abundant springs which created vernal pools. In the past, they produced many frogs and salamanders. I also found a large toad beside the lower spur (342?).

These roads are perfect for walking. I have written several times pleading to have them closed. Every year someone drives through the pools which are severely degraded now. The second spur (306) is very short. No reason to drive on it ever!

I know these examples are very local. I am sure similar places exist throughout our forests. Vehicles and careless tree removal are a huge threat to the entire ecosystem. Please protect more of it. Give us more places to walk at different elevations.

My eyes and ears are tuned to the health of these places. My feet do the minimum of damage as I observe which plants and animals remain. I have discovered many rare plants and local areas of botanical diversity. Some depend on better protection from traffic now.

Thank you, Sincerely Mary Cooke