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Comments: October 1, 2025

Umatilla National Forest Supervisor's Office

Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision

72510 Coyote Road

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Review Committee:

My name is Blanche Ballard and I am a Native American and a Native Oregonian. My family is deeply rooted here and I have lived here my entire life. The Blue Mountains are my home. We regularly use the Wallowa-Whitman, Malheur, and Umatilla National Forests for recreational, spiritual, and subsistence activities.

The revision is nearly identical to the 2018 plan that was withdrawn due to public outcry. It did not meet community needs. It contains all the same deficiencies including, but not limited to:

? Decommissioning legacy roads

? Eliminating and limiting motorized access

? Stopping cross country motorized travel; even where currently practiced

? Fails to protect substance/cultural use and access for all communities

Today's population on is aging. The average age of the public citizen is aging. Even for myself though I don't like to face it. Motorized access is necessary for areas where myself and areas where my family and others have used for generations. Traditional campsites, gathering places. A desired condition should maintain an OPEN FOREST that remains forest wide for all residents throughout the life of the plan. Any plan put forth that does not have this clearly state this is unacceptable. Verbiage and acronyms such SPNM or Primitive zones are just another set of terms to limit or restrict access. If there are roads or trails used through these areas - they are used. An "open forest" is just that. Open. Use the tools you already have to regulate and police these areas if necessary if damages are offenders are causing damage. Punish the offenders rather than the overall public.

The plan needs to reflect the needs of the community and people who live and rely on the forests. Not outside groups and especially not the prior rejected plan. Please - Please, consider the impact your decisions will have on your family and on the cultural impact of the future.

Thank you.

Blanche Ballard