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The proposed "Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project" is in actual fact a 5 to 13 million board foot (depending on the plan chosen) timber sale on 110,000 acres in the heart of the Heppner unit of the Umatilla National Forest. Four years ago, the project was presented and ultimately put on hold because of multiple concerns addressed by the public. The same timber sale has been reinvented under the guise of "restoration" with a public comment deadline of April 18, 2022. Five to thirteen million board feet of timber is equivalent to three fully loaded log trucks a day for thirteen months and/or up to nine fully loaded log trucks a day for one year. There is no reason to support this project.

1) The Ellis Project timber sale would severely undermine the headwaters of Butter Creek, Johnson Creek, Potamas Creek, Five Mile Creek, Sugar Bowl Creek, Ellis Creek, Pole Creek and unlimited associated springs that feed these mountain streams. The source of our well water, underground streams, are these aquifers that originate in the mountain reservoirs of the Blue Mountains.

2) The elk and deer are already leaving the National Forest because there is mankind activity virtually every month in the forest, as well as out of control cats and wolves, all due to mismanagement by the Forest Service and ODFW. This Ellis timber sale would remove existing wildlife thermal and security cover on 110,000 acres plus add significantly more unnecessary human activity.

3) There were multiple timber sales in this area in the late 1990's. This Ellis Project commercial timber sale allows 10 to 90 sq. feet of basal area per acre. That is a disguised definition for clear cut logging (40 to 60 sq. ft. equals shelter wood clear cut) which will be the predominate method of commercial logging on this project. The Ellis Project has an undefined acreage for clear cuts.

4) On 283 miles of road and trail corridors commercial logging would take place 300 to 500 feet from either side, hiding logging impacts. Unlimited new logging road construction would further erode forest riparian areas, aquifers and wildlife habitat.

The general public has until April 18, 22 to respond to this timber sale. Only those that respond by April 18 will have standing to have a voice in the future of the Ellis Project on our local National Forest. You can write to the Forest Service in care of Doug McKay or Leslie Taylor, Post Office box 7, Heppner, Oregon 97836. By fax 541 676 2105. Electronic comments can be made on Umatilla National Forest webpage on Ellis Integrated Vegetation Project. Our national forest is a gift from God. We have a responsibility to honor that heritage and pass it on to our posterity.

Stuart Dick