

December 21, 2020

Johanna Kovarik, District Ranger Paulina Ranger District Ochoco National Forest 3160 NE 3rd Street Prineville, Oregon 97754

E-mail: http://cara.ecosystem-managment.org/Public/CommentInput?project=56602

Subject: Comments - Sunflower Grazing Reauthorization and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project EA

The purpose of this letter is to state the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) supports the recently completed Environmental Assessment titled Sunflower Grazing Reauthorization and Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project. RMEF concurs with stated need for the project, the conclusions of the analysis and recommends implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative.

RMEF is particularly pleased that this project identifies the Need to provide Wildlife Habitat Improvement and includes active measures to do so. The projects proposed forage enhancement, water improvements and disturbance reduction measures will greatly benefit all wildlife, including elk and mule deer. We note the interest of the Forest Service in keeping the elk and deer on the Forest and off the adjacent private ownerships where their presence often becomes problematic.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. The Elk Foundation also works to open, secure and improve public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Sincerely,

Bill Richardson

Oregon & Washington Sr. Lands Program Manager Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation