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Organization:

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Comments: Forest Planners,

As a pilot that has utilized runways within the USFS boundaries, I would ask you to change all references where trails and roads are stated to include airstrips in the infrastructure as it was in the 2012 planning rule. I'm pretty sure I commented at that time too, but have been personally involved in early detection of fires and emergency evacuation simply by being in the area or on the airstrip. I have also been involved in flying conservation groups, people with disabilities, and others into the areas where they were able to see the "overall perspective" and its importance to the public in general where otherwise they would not have been exposed. I have never seen abuse from pilots and know some volunteer groups that also volunteer their time to keep airstrips functional for FS use. Federal agencies and members of Congress have stated the importance of airstrips as part of the public lands infrastructure system. I believe the cost/benefit of maintaining airstrips within the public lands system is imperative to keeping the system monitored and an "visible" to the public with minimal impact.