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Comments: I am writing this in opposition to the proposed Natural Gas Pipeline running through the national forest.

I have been involved with woods work as both a contractor and a long term seasonal Forest Service employee. In both capacities I have spent many hours contemplating the Forest and our relations to it. We as a people have done much to degrade the woods for economic gain. Our soils and waterways have both been harmed by our timber management mentality.

The 1994 Northwest Forest Act was enacted to mitigate much of our hellbent destruction. The LSR areas were created to try and mimic old growth traits. This to me was a good direction Unfortunately allowing this 3 foot pipeline to be installed would create much damage to an area that was created to avoid this. This action is something that a normal citizen would not be allowed to do. It should not happen.

I will leave you with the most profound thing that was said in my 11 seasons with the Forest Service. It happened in 1994 at a meeting of all the Umpqua Forest employees when the Northwest Forest Plan was introduced. It was when one of the creators of the Plan said "There is More To These Forests Than We Could Ever Understand". Those words had an impact on me. I hope you take these words with you when you make your recommendations.