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Comments: Greetings:

I appreciate the opportunity to review and comment on the EA for the Ochoco Wild Horse Herd Management Plan and Forest Plan Amendment. I strongly support Alternative 2.

I believe USFS has made a compelling, science-based case to reduce the number of wild horses in the Big Summit Territory. The negative impacts of the current number of horses on other resources are quite conspicuous and well-documented. It is past time to give this area some ecological "breathing room" and a chance for damaged or over-utilized habitat to recover.

I also strongly believe in the principles of multiple use and sustained yield being applied to non-wilderness national forest lands. So I offer no blanket objection to domestic livestock utilizing this area. However, although not the focus of this EA, I think a case has been made nonetheless to take a closer look at sheep and cattle grazing in this area in the not-too-distant future to be certain that best management practices are being applied to protect the same resources being compromised by the horse herd.

USFS and BLM have a thankless and almost impossible job in managing wild horses in areas where the horse populations strain the habitat. I commend the authors of this EA for a thorough analysis and for arriving at a practical alternative for management of the Big Summit horse herd that stands a good chance of restoring some ecological balance to the affected habitat, that is, Alternative 2.

Thanks, and all the best.

Jeffrey Richardson

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It does seem to me