

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/9/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Melanie

Last name: Feder

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear,

Dear Responsible Official of the USFS,

I am writing to oppose the elimination of the Eastside Screens rule.

This rule was put in place to "preserve those components of the landscape - old forest abundance, wildlife habitat in late and old structural stages, and riparian areas - which [[hellip]] are vitally important to certain species of wildlife and fish and to the overall vegetative structure of the forest."

I oppose the elimination of the Eastside Screens rule because:

1. The USFS has not provided an alternative to the Eastside Screens that would better promote these landscape components.
2. Best available science tells us that large, old trees are needed on the landscape for wildlife, storing carbon, and fire resiliency. Eastern Oregon forests already do not have enough large and old trees to meet these needs.
3. Eliminating this rule would only make reaching these goals harder. According to the USFS's own data it would slow the rate at which forests attain vital old growth characteristics.
4. The proposal would eliminate an important collaborative process between the USFS and stakeholders.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

Melanie Feder