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Comments: I thank the Forest Service's commitment to a full environmental analysis of the forest road system. It is my understanding that roads within the Mt Hood National Forest are more numerous than the Forest Service is able to fund/maintain. Consistent with this, I see that there are plans close and decommission roads; in this instance danger trees would not need to be removed and could then contribute to the ecology (nesting, insect food sources, etc) and recovery of the burned area.

In addition, maintaining access to cultural resources requires consultation with Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and Grand Ronde. As a first step, the Mt. Hood management plan provides direction on honoring treaty rights and traditional areas that are protected by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. In addition, local communities along closed highway 224 along the Clackamas river have been impacted by the fires of 2020. Therefore, priority should be given to allowing access to the Clackamas river, since ODOT has almost completed its abatement projects. River access could be allowed even if other Forest Service roads are not ready to be opened.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments about this important project

Sincerely,  
Emily Platt