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Organization: Greater Hells Canyon Council

Title:

Comments:

Greater Hells Canyon Council

La Grande, OR

April 4, 2022

Sent electronically via: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57625>

To: Shaun McKinney, Forest Supervisor and

Bill Gamble, District Ranger

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Re: Sheep Creek Vegetation Management Project Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact

Dear Supervisor McKinney and Ranger Gamble,

Greater Hells Canyon Council very much appreciates the efforts of the Forest Service staff to develop the Sheep Creek Vegetation Management project.

We've carefully reviewed the Draft Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for the project.

Previously, we provided comments on the Proposed Action (on 3/16/2020) and the Preliminary Environmental Assessment (on 10/1/2021).

We support many aspects of the Sheep Creek Project. We're encouraged that the Draft Decision reflects considerations for wildlife habitat, connectivity, a nuanced approach to fuels management, protections for soils and steep slopes, and that our comments have been considered during the process. We appreciate that the project was analyzed using an Environmental Analysis, allowing a wide-spectrum of the public to contribute to the process affecting public lands.

We respectfully submit this Objection to the Sheep Creek Project to encourage the Forest Service to fully consider the decision space offered by Alternative 3 (of the Preliminary Environmental Analysis) and to ensure that all travel management impacts of this project are being thoroughly considered in the absence of a Travel Management Plan for the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. Please contact me if I may be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Brian Kelly

Restoration Director, Greater Hells Canyon Council