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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello! I am writing to you today in opposition to the Ellis timber sale in your district. The size and scale of this sale is massive and devastating. This is a beautiful, wild forest with significance to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, as well as many hunters, campers, hikers, and more. This is an important area for wildlife, including recovering gray wolves.

I am concerned about commercial logging within old growth forest and cool moist mixed conifer forest, as proposed by alternatives 2, 4 and 5. A lot of this land has never been logged or had roads. This rare type of forest is worth more standing, and should be preserved, particularly in riparian areas. The Ellis timber sale will reduce habitat for marten, woodpeckers, and many more animals. It will degrade soil and water conditions, and construct new roads. This is terrible for wildfire, recreation and hunting/gathering in the forest, as well as for the health of the forest itself, and the watershed.

The EIS for this project was inadequate and incomplete, and needs to be redone. A project of this magnitude and potential for damage needs a much closer look. Ideally, the Forest Service will cancel this timber sale. If it goes forward, it needs a new EIS and comment period. Even the least damaging alternative, number 3, needs to be scaled down and scrutinized.

Thank you, Tara Hershberger