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Title:

Comments: I am told that my longer response never made it to the reading room.

Your staff did reply to a second effort inquiring as to why it didn't make the reading room having to do with autoflagging the word "tribe". So thank you for that, as I now have a third try at getting my comments into the record.

My original response was intended to encourage project planning to focus on restoration specific to climate change conditions which are already showing up in the area in the form of hotter fire seasons, later springs (which affect bud burst and fine fuels production) and species composition and age classes.

I also wanted to express a concern about entering roadless areas with road building equipment and heavy equipment generally. First, because the Forest has documented a too-high road density issue, which it can't afford to maintain under current budgets; second because of Forest Service research showing that logged areas are more fire prone than any other condition class; and third because entry of heavy equipment into roadless areas have a high risk of spreading noxious weeds which are one of the biggest threats to native species and agriculture.

That said, I want to see this project have genuine public involvement, especially with conservation groups and "Tribes". I want to see that they are engaged appropriately and legally (consult the Tribal Relations guidance from Washington DC in particular) and to see evidence that the comments we make are understood and utilized in decisionmaking.

In two previous projects information about what was said was fed back in ways that clearly were incorrect. In one of those cases I talked to the person managing public engagement who was so inappropriate I contacted the Regional Office for redress.

I'm happy for you to do the best restoration work you can, but my two previous experiences have made me distrustful. And that's sad, because Wallowa Whitman some years ago was considered a model for NEPA actions. I'm hearing things in the community that the new folks have integrity and I'm relying on that report in making this comment.