Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/29/2023 7:00:00 AM
First name: Shull
Last name: John
Organization:
Title:
Comments: I support the project to restore our forests and make them more prepared to resist the catastrophic wildfires that have been devastating the landscape in recent years. This corner of Oregon is unique in the wilderness of the Eagle Cap and the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area, as well as the Wallowa Whitman National Forests. This is what draws residents and visitors alike to recreate and explore this "little Switzerland" and meet the challenges it brings for Winter Sports, including snowmobiling and the ECX Extreme Sled Dog Race.From the snow park at Salt Creek Summit, many folks have come near and far to explore and enjoy the many miles of groomed trails and backcountry access now listed within the project boundary. Given the sizeable investment to the local economy, I urge you to keep snowmobiling available throughout the project timeline. The FS 39 Road is a major route that folks take to access different areas and trails. Consider alternate routes for the hauling of timber and project access, or provide one lane dedicated to over the snow vehicles. Identify what areas or plots are in operation by signage so that the public can avoid those areas at those given times. The trails must be groomed for the local club to maintain the groomer equipment, so consider routes and connectivity that the groomer can accomplish their mission.The ECX Extreme Sled Dog Race is host to the State's most thrilling sporting event that features some of the world's best athletes. This is Oregon's only lditarod and Yukon Quest qualifier, two of the longest mushing events in the world and one third of the Rocky Mountain Triple Crown. This race draws mushers and spectators from all over the country and supports the local communities. This race travels through this project utilizing the FS 39 Road as well as several other roads and if closed would essentially eliminate this race. As with the considerations listed in the above paragraph, look closely at the project's operational periods and determine a seasonal window where the race can continue without interference with your operations. Cooperation with the ECX leadership can help with this.Finally, before the work begins a schedule and map of the project work areas would help the community members who enjoy this great area to understand what areas they are free to access. This could be accessed through your website. Additionally, how do you keep out those members of the public who will take advantage of cleared roads to see how far they can go and end up interfering with your operations.Thank you for your consideration.