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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I oppose the plan to log 17,585 acres in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest. I am concerned about the impact to the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Wallowa Valley Ranger District of the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, and the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area.

There is a great deal of verdant, lush moist mixed conifer forest with precious stream systems, creeks, and fens; and abundant wildlife, including elk; deer; coyotes; Gray wolves heard; Black bear foraging sign, scat, and claw marks; woodpecker species; and many other bird species. These species must be protected.

I have seen photographs of beautiful scenic views of the deep canyons from never logged forest on steep slopes slated for logging. Logging is particularly unsafe and detrimental on steep slopes. Never logged forests should be preserved for habitat and carbon sequestration.

I am concerned that heavy logging, including clearcutting, is planned for many never logged areas, great wildlife habitat, and extremely steep slopes directly over major-fish-bearing creeks and their tributary streams. This will be catastrophic for these waterways and fish. Commercial logging is planned for the highest percentage of never logged forest in a timber sale. This is outrageous.

The Morgan Nesbit logging would fragment an important wildlife corridor linking the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area to Hells Canyon. Rare and far-roaming wildlife species that may be using this forested corridor may include Canada lynx, Pacific fisher, Wolverine, American marten, Gray wolf, moose, and possible Grizzly bear from the Wilderness Area and recovery efforts. These recovery efforts must be respected and protected.

I oppose this timber sale and ask that these concerns be addressed; including habitat protection, logging never-logged areas, and impacts to recreation areas. Thank you.