Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/9/2023 10:04:16 PM
First name: Susan
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Comments: Re: Clarks Integrated Vegetation Management Project

Logging units proposed within the wildlife corridor are unacceptable. Road building is known to disrupt the dispersal and travel of wildlife. The Wallowa-Whitman NF is already one of the most heavily roaded forests in the country, and lacks a travel management plan. There are no estimates for how many miles of road to be constructed since the plan is to deal with it on an as-needed basis. This is not acceptable, especially in a mapped wildlife corridor. A robust analysis of existing and projected impacts to wildlife habitat must be completed, and units in the mapped wildlife corridor should be downgraded to the lightest-touch option, or dropped entirely. ODFW has stated that they already have concerns with the existing density of open roads and quality of elk security habitat in the project area.

Commercial logging in Old Growth Management Areas is not acceptable - especially places designated to provide old-growth habitat for wildlife. These stands should contain multi-layered canopies, standing dead trees, and trees of varying species (including shade-tolerant firs). All such units should be dropped from the project as they are not in the WUI, and some are the least roaded and undisturbed parts in the project area.

As someone who lives near national forests and visits them often, I am concerned for their future. This kind of logging project must not be allowed. Our main concern right now must be for wildlife habitat, unpolluted water, and lack of human encroachment.