

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/16/2023 8:29:36 PM

First name: Caleb

Last name: CARGILL

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Paulina District Ranger and Team,

I would like to comment in support a portion of the proposed North Fork Crooked River Forest Resilience Project with one item of change. The proposed fuels reduction will greatly benefit our forest resources through reducing overall biomass density and by reducing the available fuel in the event of a wildfire. This will ensure the positive ability to manage our landscape for the public benefit, wildlife habitat and grazing resource for livestock. The lands located within this project are a valuable resource for both recreational and agricultural interests.

While I support the reductions in fuels, I Do not support the proposed road closure as presented in your "Story Maps" presentation. I believe a diverse and inclusive use option is best for our non-Wilderness public lands. Our nation has and will continue to desire more areas that are under full wilderness protection. That will be designated and decided upon with a case-by-case congressional decision. The region at hand has and will never have the characteristics of a true wilderness area as defined by congress. The economic and public enjoyment value of this area is supported by the current road system which allows hunters, hikers and other outdoor users to enjoy and easily access their public lands. I believe the current road system is an asset that the forest service shall be required to maintain. Small skid type roads are already self-closing through the encroachment of small conifer. I believe this is an acceptable option. The roads that are more two track in nature or have remnants of gravel and see seasonal use by hunters should remain open. I don't believe it necessary to maintain these two track roads but i do believe they should remain open.

The main roads within the area such as the 4200 road need to be maintained as outlined in your forest plan. These roads should not be allowed to deteriorate to the point of possibly selecting them for a closure in the future. The hard work has already been done to get this road system in place, why would we undo that progress to reach a state of wilderness that is nothing more than a dream at this point. A dream that doesn't admit that man is as much part of the overall picture as any other species. Let us manage accordingly instead of always trying to find a way to exclude man from the picture.