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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom is May Concern

I have lived in Pine Valley for 40 years and am a retired employee of the USDA-FS for 33 years. Most of it here at Pine RS or Wallowa-Whitman NF. I love the Blue Mountains and it's landscapes. I loved my job and the Forest Service mission.

I do have concerns with this West Wall DFPZ logging project.

The fire preventions discussed in the scoping document are the same old dogma. We are in a climate crisis which warrants other ways of thinking and managing climate driven fires. It is a dog of a different color. I don't see the Forest Service adopting or imagining any new ways of dealing with this situation. Yes the forest and therefore the project butts up to private property the entire length. Isn't that why we have Firewise Organization here, and have for 2-3 years. Have you coordinated with them and WUI affected property owners??

I asked for road density statistics regarding wildlife habit. But since you don't have to provide it, because this action is a CE, it wasn't. However, a better map was kindly provided by your staff showing all the open and closed roads in the project area. A picture is worth a thousand words...or numbers. It doesn't take a Forest engineer to see that the road densities could easily match or exceed 2 miles to the square mile which is where road densities affect the elk and deer. And you are going to build new roads. The road situation is a joke as you well know. There are no closed roads unless they were put to bed. The dirt bike/atv phenomenon has turned our public lands into an off road carnival.....no presence and no enforcement. Wild life has no place to be. The erosion is becoming very perceptible.

Moving on to the logging aspect of this project, I can't help but feel we need our forests to hold what little we have of snow pack. I hope the 21" rule still holds and is honored. Our old growth and mature forests speak to this need. They also provide value habitat to countless non game specie.

I also have concerns about the cumulative impacts of this project with the Hancock clear cuts on the north end. I use the forest close to town multiple times in a week for walking, wildlife viewing, meditative relaxation and so on. Many people who live here do. We see the noxious weeds spreading from the Hancock clear cuts, which I dutifully report to county and forest weed staff. But that is only one issue regarding cumulative impacts. When you walk through a clear cut then back into the uncut forest the temperatures are astoundingly different. Climate crisis? Blah blah blah.

Finally, I don't think anyone can argue that the world is in a crisis. All diverse native habitats world wide are being converted to monocultures to support agriculture and industry. We need native systems to understand and manage healthy landscapes that support us all. All this logging feels like sabotage. Are we trying to destroy our own habitat, like the immigrant colonizers did to the indigenous cultures?? Can the public landscapes be managed for the good of all humanity and all life? Can we view it with reverence? Can we learn from it? Instead of viewing it for what we can extract?

One final concern. I have a total lack of trust with Oregon State Forestry Department being involved on this project, authorized by GNA, because the state's mandates regarding forestry are totally different from the mission of public lands administered by the USDA-FS. It is MY backyard and it is very sacred to me.

Thank for your time.

Respectfully,

Margaret Durner