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Organization:

Title:

Comments: June 22, 2024

Whitman Ranger District

Attn: Huckleberry DFPZ Scoping

1550 Dewey Ave., Suite A

Baker City , OR 97814

Following are my comments on the Huckleberry DFPZ Scoping My name is _____, representing myself as a citizen I live at _____ and receive mail at _____, Prairie City, Oregon 97869.

I agree with the primary purpose of this project to establish and maintain fuel breaks to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire on both Federal land and the Sumpter Valley community.

On page 4 of the unnumbered document Bullet 5 "Roads would be[hellip].. sub-bullet two "An estimate of 11 segments of temporary roads will be created for a total of 2.4 miles. Temporary roads would be closed and restored after harvest activities have been completed." What do you mean by "restored" after harvest? How can you improve then reverse those improvements? Or do you mean any roads that are currently closed you will reopen then closes after? Why do that especially if one of your objectives of the project is to "improve public safety"? How many miles of road will be closed?

My general comments, concerns, and questions on the project follow:

When you cut, and pile will you be able to chip the wood rather than burn?

Wildfire Crisis Strategy to expedite fuel treatments around communities at risk is how the project was identified to justify the CE. Working on it for one year what other projects were considered, when will they be identified and what will the scoping involve?

What involvement did Power River Rural fire department have in the project? What will be the expected direct benefit for the fire district and the people living in it? What will be the impact on the old saying "logger or let'er burn?"

What do the colors on the maps mean?

Thinning and piling when will you burn?

It feels like you are filling in the gaps in areas where you don't have complete fuel breaks. Why is that the case? Why hasn't this work been done when you were in the areas previously? Why is it not routine to assure there are fuel breaks? Is the complete process not KEY to proper Forest Management?

Logging done on Dean Creek last year big piles burned. Is there any requirement for them to go back in and clean those up? There are some big logs; butts, etc. or do you have teams that go in consolidated and complete the burning?

How close to the private property line do you burn? Right up to the red mark you have made? Is there a buffer?

Creeks, do you stay away from creeks?

The map that shows the roads. Will you be burning outside or inside of them?

Are the roads used as breaks?

Will you be hauling just out of Forest Service Roads, or will you be using State, County, Loop Roads?

Concern on Huckleberry loop road from residence that live there it is a county road and the county would like to know what/how it will be utilized so they don't do any improvements that might be jeopardized due to this effort.

Have you Coordinated with the County? If so, when did that start and how often do you meet on this project?

Will you be doing any improvements on the 11 or any other roads while you are in there?

The existing blue flags on all the trees up there along 11 road and throughout is that for this project or previous projects.

What is the volume estimate on the project?

Timeline on completion of project?

What is Clear Creek classified as? What are the categories and where are the fish?

Where do you deem Clear Creek starts?

Will you improve the crossings of Clear Creek? They are not adequate for trucks or any large equipment.

Will any changes be made to the flow of the water up there?

When were your water rights filed on Clear Creek?

Would it be possible to get more specifics on the maps so that the public can identify with the lay of the land?

Please note: The Sumpter community prefers a presentation style meeting.

Explain the recent decision on 21" rule as it relates to the project.

What is the spacing needed for trees specific to this project?

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Respectfully submitted,