

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/19/2024 6:10:31 PM

First name: Norm

Last name: Cimon

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thank you for the changes that have been made to the proposal. There's more to be done, nonetheless.

The Forest Service must not fall into the same legal trap that the BLM finds itself in. In SW Oregon, the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument has been seen as an extension of the agency's standard management practices. That has been a serious mistake. The Monument is at the intersection of a half-dozen different ecosystems and it was designated specifically for the purpose of preserving biological diversity. That is its stated purpose. That's not how the management plan has treated it unfortunately.

Here in NE Oregon, the Hells Canyon NRA is a significant refugia and a crossroads from the Northern Rocky Mountains through the Blue Mountains and on to the Cascade and Sierra mountain ranges. It also was set aside for a very specific set of values and those must be respected in constraining logging practices. The proposal must incorporate limits as an important element in maintaining biological diversity and ecosystem integrity of the NRA.

Road building into previously un-logged portions of the Forest should be prohibited. The absurd road density in the Forest should be reduced, not expanded, and uncut portions of the Forest that harbor important wildlife populations must be excluded from logging.

Finally, the risk involved in drying out heavily modified stands must be acknowledged. The effects of a changing climate on such stands is real: the transition of these forest stands to much drier grassland and shrubland vegetation. With its emphasis on sustainability, the Wallowa-Whitman NF's Comprehensive Management Plan demands this be considered.

Thank you for your time.