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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Service Planning Team,

Thank you for receiving comments once again on the Morgan Nesbit Forest Resiliency Project #58961. My name is Lindsay Schuelke and I have lived in Oregon for nearly 10 years. I live on the West side, but visit Eastern Oregon often and cherish the uniquely beautiful landscapes and wildlife. I serve on the Greater Hells Canyon Council's Board of Directors, participate in various annual events and support local. This incredible region and the people, places, and community are close to my heart.

There are some concerning elements of the Morgan Nesbit project. First, it is situated between the vast natural areas of the Eagle Cap Wilderness and Hells Canyon. The abundant wildlife of this area relies on this forest remaining intact and connected as possible. Rather than logging activity dispersed across the 90+K acres of land, a preservation-based management approach would help maintain the forests' wellbeing.

Unfortunately this project includes plenty of logging, even in new places that haven't been cut previously, which will require more roads. They are called "temporary roads" in the plan, but creating them at all creates a big impact (let alone that they enable the logging work's impact).

A substantial part of the project area lies in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (HCNRA), which must match the Comprehensive Management Plan and limits logging for the National Forest lands. As you refine this plan, it is required to specify how, where and why logging may occur in accordance with the management plan. Additionally, alternatives must be developed alongside the impact analysis.

There are better paths forward, and that is demonstrated already by your improvements like preserving large and old-growth trees >21" in diameter, the development of a wildlife corridor map, planning to decommission some roads that are in disrepair, and reducing the total proposed logging acres. Please continue to consider how to best prioritize a more conservation-oriented plan. Thank you.