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Comments: First, I want to thank the Forest Service for conducting an Environmental Assessment for the Stone Creek Project and for receiving comments and feedback from the public at this time.

I am also happy to see that the Forest Service has been engaging the Warm Springs Tribes in the Stone Creek Project, notably as regards the application of prescribed or cultural burns. Surveys suggest that the project area is rich in bear grass colonies, an important cultural resource and an indicator species regarding the use of cultural burns. With that in mind, I encourage the Forest Service to expand consultation with the Warm Springs Tribes when projects take place across their traditional homelands.

Regarding many other aspects of the Stone Creek Project, my main concerns center on whether the Forest Service will have the resources and manpower to adequately monitor for the optimum ecological results of the project as planned. While I support the use of local contractors, I also expect that those contracted will be held to upholding the highest standards of project goals.

Among my concerns as regards sufficient oversight by the Forest Service:

- 1) That road closures should be adequately finalized with proper physical barriers like boulders, berms, or logs that prevent unauthorized vehicles from entering closed areas.
- 2) That large trees, snags and logs which can serve long-term as wildlife habitat or as a source of natural soil replenishment be retained in areas where timber treatments or commercial harvests are planned. Many of these proposed areas would benefit from enhanced biodiversity.
- 3) That dispersed campgrounds can be dismantled and rid of litter wherever other applications are planned, not least of all along roads utilized by contractors or along soon-to-be closed roads.

Finally, my greatest concern is the protection and enhancement of the project area's complex and diverse hydrological features. Again, those concerns include sufficient oversight by the Forest Service during project applications:

- 1) That hydrological features be accurately assessed and mapped to secure optimum ecological goals currently and into the future.
- 2) That wetland connectivity be respected and enhanced to support forest health, wildlife habitat and the availability of cool, clean water for human and non-human communities during a time of climate disruption.
- 3) That wetland restoration be pursued where past management policies and applications have undermined wetland integrity or viability.
- 4) That the health and stability of hydrological and riparian features be protected or enhanced wherever the many streams in the project area intersect with or run adjacent to roadside fuel treatments.

Thank you again for receiving public comments.