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First name: Randy

Last name: Norton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The U.S. Forest Service says its new Preliminary Draft Land Management Plan for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests is about "balance" and "access."

Transportation Infrastructure is misleading and incomplete. This section never mentions cross-country travel . There's no discussion of open motorized use across the landscape. No mention of preserving long-standing access used for gathering firewood, hunting camps, or checking on livestock.

By failing to acknowledge or protect cross-country use, and by codifying a transportation framework that centers solely on designated roads and trails, the Forest Service is building a new baseline - one that normalizes restriction and marginalizes traditional access.

Under the 2005 Travel Management Rule, all motorized travel is prohibited except on routes or areas explicitly designated as open. If the Forest Service doesn't say it's allowed - it's closed by default.

We have been down this same road before, the management plan of 2018 which the Forest Service withdrew. Stop, restart, and work with the communities. I am opposing the loss of cross-country motorized travel and asking that the plan include a standard or suitability statement protecting it.