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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision (BMFPR). As a longtime resident of Eastern Oregon, I am deeply invested in the future of our forests and communities.

With President Trump looking at opening up the logging industry to harvest our trees and start utilizing the lumber commodities, why implement this bad plan.

It is evident that the current assessment falls short in adequately identifying the cultural, social and economic needs of local Eastern Oregon residents and lacks in considering the impacts on rural communities. It is imperative that any revisions to the forest plan prioritize the well-being of our residents and strive to create vibrant communities that align with the US Forest Service's objective of "caring for the land and serving the people."

Furthermore, the assessment fails to accurately represent the current conditions for gathering natural resources and accessing them. In today's economic climate, it is crucial that any revisions to the forest plan increase access to the natural resources of the area, rather than limit them. Our region relies heavily on these resources for economic stability, and restricting access would only exacerbate the challenges faced by our communities.

Open access to Wallowa-Whitman and Malheur National Forests is vital in supporting local economies and communities. The assessment fails to consider the value of this open access and ensure that it is preserved for future generations.

Additionally, the assessment must accurately define specific restoration thresholds, future needs, and the effects of federal actions on human beings. It is essential that these factors are carefully considered to ensure the long-term sustainability of our forests and communities.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision Team to revise the current forest

plans to increase access to the natural resources of the area. Our communities depend on these resources for economic stability, and it is crucial that any revisions to the forest plan support our local economies and communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to seeing these concerns addressed in future revisions of the assessment.

Additionally, I would like to provide the additional comment -

The United States Department of Agriculture, Mission statement:

wolves.

"The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) mission is to provide leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, and related issues based on sound public policy, the best available science, and efficient management."

In Oregon's and other states as well, who have lands that are governed by the USFS and the USDA, it would be prudent to all those involved especially in small communities whose economy is dependent on harvesting timber from the forest and replanting seedlings to replenish the forest. The economy in Wallowa County, Union, Baker Counties and several others are more or less dependent on the harvest of said crop of trees. Mills and sawmills that have a trickle-down economy. We use to have 3 vibrant high schools in Wallowa county and other industries that proved jobs to support the logging industries. It is now dwindled to a handful of graduates from each school. There are no car dealerships in Wallowa County any longer and I believe the last mill has closed.

We do not need to have a wait and see policy of fire management to watch these natural resources burn up.

We do not need to have a USFS plan that is all dependent on fire management that burns up all of the timber.

Bringing Grizzlies, wolverines and wolves back into the Wallowa Whitman National Forest is introducing species that are not native to the area. When I worked for the USFS, on the survey crew, we saw black and brown

We did not need to have the Canadian Grey wolf planted in Wallowa County, or in any other forest. The population

of deer has moved into the towns. The elk herd has diminished. After much expense of bringing them to Billy Meadows in the early 1900.'s To have the USFS manage these to depletion is a dereliction of duty and simply bad policy. Placing "stakeholders' such as Wallowa Resources in charge of our National Forest is also a dereliction duty. This is like placing a fox in the hen house, but their intent is to lock up all of our Mulitple Use National Forest and make it into a Wilderness. This was not the purpose of the Wallowa Whiman Multiple Use National Forest. The Eagle Cap Wilderness, the Hells Canyon Recreation Unit and the Wenaha Wilderness are all wilderness areas in one small county. Wallowa. I fail to understand how government agencies such as the USDA and the USFS are making Memorandums of Understanding and Agreements with non-government organizations (NGO's) and non-profit groups that are determined to lock up all of our Multiple Use National Forest as wilderness and make it illegal for people to recreate, harvest, work, hunt and gather in our taxpayer funded Multiple Use National Forest. Please explain to me how this is legal and appropriate or did we switch and become some type of communist country that our taxpayer paid lands are locked up to the public with threats of jail time and fines. Our roads that our tax dollars paid to build, to harvest trees and to replant said trees, to camp, hunt and fish are locked up, water barred and blocked. It used to be that loggers were out in the forest, harvesting trees, if a lightening caused fire started, they'd call it in and with their pumper trucks put it out. Cattle would graze out in the forest to help keep the grass down to stop the spread of wild grassfires.