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First name: Amanda

Last name: Machen

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The revision of the 1990 Land Management Plan for the Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in Oregon (also known as the Blue Mountains National Forests) should include aviation and airstrips in their future plan. Historically, aviation and airstrips have been present in these forests and provide not only another opportunity for dispersed recreational activities but also provide clear areas for wild land firefighting and EMS to utilize during emergencies as well as meadow like habitat for local wildlife.

Backcountry aviators purchase fuel, gear and supplies from local communities and groups like the RAF are available to help maintain strips.

I urge you to continue the legacy of our back country strips that help connect communities to life saving efforts as well as providing beautiful destinations for aviators.