

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/1/2025 8:26:43 PM

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Organization:

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Comments: I am a member of the Recreational Aviation Foundation (RAF), Experimental Aviation Association (EAA), and Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), as well as a commercial helicopter pilot who is actively engaged for the last 25 years in USFS fire fighting, project work, etc. I use many USFS airports personally for recreation as well as for work.

I believe the following notes below, from the RAF, effectively express my desire for the next Blue Mountains Forest Plan update to include aviation and that airstrips be recognized and formally included in the plan. Inclusion will ensure safe, continued access to regional airstrips, including Reds Horse Ranch (68D), and others.

#### Historic Use

\* Both commercial and private aviation activity has historically occurred on these Forests since the 1930s. Please consider adding "aviation" to the list of approved activities.

#### Management and Maintenance

\*Aviation organizations have established Airstrip Integrated Operations and Maintenance Plans on the Wallowa-Whitman Forest. This plan can be replicated on each Blue Mountains Forest for airstrip maintenance. This is cost effective partnering with aviation groups to maintain the airstrips, saving USFS funds.

#### Transportation Infrastructure

\* Airstrips are a component of the USFS nationwide transportation system, as are the roads and trails, and should be considered as such in any management plan

\* Airstrips support Federal and State land management activities, wildfire operations, recreational and hunting use, emergency evacuation, access to private in-holdings and commercial ventures that support the local economy.

#### Objectives

\* Please add "Maintain Airstrips" to this list

#### Dispersed Usage

\* Airstrips provide locations for dispersed backcountry recreation.

#### Aesthetics

\* Airstrips appear as open meadows on level terrain, and offer habitat for wildlife.

#### Effect on Wildlife

\* Scientifically peer-reviewed studies show that aircraft noise has no detrimental effect on wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.