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First name: Matthew

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

I urge you to include aviation and airstrip maintenance in the revised Land Management Plan for the Blue Mountains National Forests (Malheur, Umatilla, and Wallowa-Whitman) to ensure continued access to remote airstrips like Reds Horse Ranch (68D). These airstrips are critical for the following reasons:

- * Historic Use: Aviation has been integral to these forests since the 1930s. Please add "aviation" as an approved activity.
- * Maintenance: Partnerships with aviation groups, as proven on the Wallowa-Whitman Forest, can maintain airstrips cost-effectively. Include these plans across all Blue Mountains Forests.
- * Infrastructure: Airstrips are vital transportation infrastructure, supporting wildfire operations, emergency evacuations, recreation, and local economies. Recognize them as such.
- * Objectives: Add "Maintain Airstrips" to the plan's objectives to prioritize their upkeep.
- * Recreation: Airstrips enable dispersed backcountry access for pilots and outdoor enthusiasts.
- * Aesthetics & Wildlife: Airstrips resemble meadows, provide wildlife habitat, and studies show aircraft noise has no negative wildlife impact.

Keeping airstrips accessible preserves historic infrastructure, supports critical operations, and boosts recreation and local economies. Without explicit inclusion in the plan, these assets risk being neglected. Please ensure that aviation and airstrip maintenance are prioritized.

Thank you for considering my comment.

Sincerely,

Matthew Brannon

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N41KS Private Pilot who frequently accesses the remote backcountry to recreate