

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/27/2025 7:00:00 AM

First name: Elaine

Last name: Smith

Organization:

Title:

Comments: September 24, 2025

Attn: Forest Planning Team.

My name is Elaine Smith. I am a long-time resident and retired rancher in the upper John Day River drainage.

Our ranching operation included the use of various cattle allotments in the surrounding mountains, and the use of roads was necessary to manage our cattle and the allotment in the most efficient and sustainable way. It was necessary at times to use off-road vehicles to place salt and minerals away from streams. Closing roads and restricting access will be detrimental to the ranching community.

I have sons and grandchildren still raising their families on ranches in the area.

I am very concerned that this draft plan does not protect the access that ranching, hunting, logging, wood gathering, and those who use the forest to gather mushrooms, berries, etc. This is not only our livelihood but also our way to raise our families to enjoy nature. This is our right as taxpaying citizens of this County, State, and Country.

This plan, with minor changes in wording, replicates the previous plan in 2019 that the citizens of this area have already commented on and rejected. We are weary of constantly having to address this plan again and again.

The plan uses Recreation zoning to hide closures. Labeling areas as "Non-Motorized" or "Primitive" IS closing roads and access.

As a senior citizen I am concerned that my enjoyment of my surroundings is being gradually stolen, as I no longer have the ability to walk long distances.

Please revise the Draft Forest Plan to:

- \*Affirmatively protect open motorized travel and cross-country travel;
- \*Remove or limit restrictive recreation zoning;
- \*Respect RS 2477 rights and pre-1976 roads;
- \*Recognize non-tribal subsistence use as a cultural tradition;
- \*And ensure legal compliance under Loper Bright, FACA, and NEPA.

I support the full legal comment submitted by Forest Access For All (FAFA) and ask that you include my voice in

support of their position.

Sincerely,

Elaine Smith