

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/4/2025 5:33:33 PM

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Title:

Comments: I am writing to advocate for the inclusion of aviation and the addition of "Maintain Airstrips" in the approved list of activities for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan. Aviation has historically occurred in these Forests. Aviation supports hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, wildfire mitigation and emergency evacuation as well as supporting other State and Federal activities. All of these activities support local economies through support and diversification of backcountry recreation.

Aviation organizations have established Airstrip Integrated Operations and Maintenance Plans on the Wallowa-Whitman Forest for airstrip maintenance. This partnership plan might be replicated on Blue Mountains Forest strips.

I flew in to a USFS strip this summer for rafting, hiking and fishing and the presence of the strip greatly enhanced access not just for myself but for countless others to a very remote area.

Please consider adding aviation to the Blue Mountains National Forests Land Management Plan.

Thank you, James Box