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Comments: There's a long history of aviation on these Forests since the 1930s. Please consider adding "aviation" to the list of approved activities. It only makes sense.

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 USFS funds.

Airstrips are a component of the USFS nationwide transportation system, as are the roads and trails, and they 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, and provide locations for dispersed backcountry recreation.

Airstrips appear as open meadows on level terrain, and offer habitat for wildlife.
Scientifically peer-reviewed studies show that aircraft noise has no detrimental effect on wildlife.

Please include aviation and airstrips in your future plans.

Thanks for your consideration,
Ray Ballantyne