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Comments: I'd like a plan that:

*Includes strong and enforceable standards (not just guidelines) for the ecological parts of the plan. This includes creating strong standards for habitat connectivity across the forests, as well as for special habitats like aquatic ecosystems, aspen groves, and grasslands.

*Retains the Eastside Screens, which provide protections for mature and old growth trees. The current draft plan erases any significant protections for big trees (trees that are greater than 21" diameter at breast height).

*Retains existing management areas for old growth forests and backcountry recreation. These exist in the current forest plans but were pulled out or watered down in the new version, presumably to open up more acres for logging.

*Creates standards and a new management area for fish and wildlife habitat connectivity. These three National Forests make up a connectivity corridor of continental importance, and the new plans should provide long-term security for fish and wildlife movement across the Blues.

*Protects for roadless areas regardless of the future of the Roadless Rule. Roadless areas may lose national protection if the Roadless Rule is rescinded, but individual National Forests can still protect them in forest plans if they so choose. New forest plans should provide protections for these last undeveloped lands.

Thanks,

Max Koltuv

La Grande