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Comments: Michael Neuenschwander,

I enjoy accessing public lands for outdoor recreation. I believe public lands provide substantial benefits to the public and are important to be managed in a way that allows for continued access and use. I am writing to provide my feedback for the draft Blue

Mountains land management plan. There has been a surge of public land use and the recreation needs are growing.

The revised plan must ensure that all current roads, trails, and other infrastructure remain open and accessible and it is stated explicitly within the plan. Forest roads are essential for recreation, search and rescue, fire suppression, timber management,

grazing access, and forest product collection. The Forest Service should commit to maintaining and expanding the current road network, expanding trail access, and actively investing in infrastructure improvements to support economic development and tourism.

I appreciate the USFS not recommending any Wilderness areas. There is already designates Wilderness and wilderness study areas within these three forests that restrict motorized access. I strongly opposed restrictive designations that prohibit multiple use

such as primitive ROS designations. These designations lock up public land from productive use and limit public access. The best path forward is one that promotes forest health through tools like active timber management, mechanical thinning, and prescribed

fire.

The Forest Service needs to be looking at ways to provide reasonable access that will sustain the growing numbers of visitation. I believe in the monitoring program needs to include questions if all user needs are being met and if there are sufficient roads

and trails for all users such full sized vehicles, single track, dispersed camping, e-bikes, etc. Often agencies try to address increased use through closures, restrictions, and reservation systems. Each of these approaches is inferior since they create a

scarcity of access, which concentrates use in remaining areas. I believe trail re-routes, enforcement and education rather than season closures should be used to address motorized encroachment in non-motorized areas.

The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis showed that in 2022 the outdoor recreation industry generates more than \$1 trillion nationwide in economic activity. Making sure that the public has access to both dispersed and free recreational opportunities as well as

developed opportunities is crucial in accommodating all types of preferences and needs. The revised plan should remove unnecessary permitting burdens that discourage events or volunteer trail work. Gateway communities benefit when public lands are open and

inviting to all users. The Forest Service should work closely with counties and local partners to ensure that land use decisions enhance, rather than limit, rural economic opportunity.

The 2025 EXPLORE Act, signed into law earlier this year, and its implementation through recent Secretarial Orders require agencies like the Forest Service to modernize permitting, expand access, invest in recreation infrastructure, and work with rural communities.

Similarly, Executive Order 14313 and the "Make America Beautiful Again" order directs agencies to prioritize motorized outdoor access, and public engagement. The revised Blue Mountains Plan must reflect these new mandates by removing red tape, expanding trail

and road access, and ensuring that economic and recreational uses of public land are protected and enhanced.

I support multiple use of our public lands and increased access to these three national forests.

Sincerely,

Joe Buechler