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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I use this part of the Malheur and I'm asking for clearer disclosure and analysis in the Austin Project Draft EIS.

Area of concern:

the entire project concerns me when Access is impacted negatively...I support a healthy vibrant sustainable forest providing timber, grazing, minerals, and recreational activities..I believe that roads are the only means for these activities to survive.

Roads provide a quick effective tool for the wildland firefighters to initiate action on wildfire. Decades ago, "wildfire" was named number one threat to our public lands, nothing has changed,,"wildfire" remains still, the threat to our national forests. Roads and Access are a major tool in fire suppression....keep them open...I have personally witnessed crews being held up behind bermed roads waiting for equipment to respond and open the road to get fire fighting trucks and crews into an area.....

How I use / access this area:

My earliest memories center around family outing to public lands,,mainly the forests. Year round the forests and lower sagebrush lands provided our family with our sustenance, (hunting, fishing, berries, edibles, and winter fuel). The seasons have been our historical seasonal pattern...

What concerns me in the Draft EIS / proposed actions:

Mr Chris French, reviewing officer for the Blue Mountain Forest plan that was withdrew in 2018, in a letter to our Reg 6 supervisor at that time made some points that appear to not been corrected,,,such as, "complex, hard to understand",.. I refer to just one of countless pages in the Austin DEIS, page 23, I read countless times and still have no idea. To quote Mr. French once again, "continued confusion" I realize this is a project not a forest plan,,but they projects and the forest plan are bonded by direction and regulations.

Details / impacts that matter to me:

the project is squarely in the middle of rural america. Our communities and people represent a unique social and economic bond tying us tgo public lands and the bounty we harvest and gather thereon...the ag community, minerals, timber,,and coming on fast to lead the race is recreation. Generational historical Access...namely OPEN FOREST.

Additional notes:

Once again I will offer my solution to "closed roads", which is what is driving the push back from the public..We want to retain the very small % we presently cover.So simple, "open forest" blanket for not just the Austin Project but all projects on public lands. Agency will provide a map disclosing roads they will maintain. When you choose to travel else where its will be at your own rist,,abuse or irreversible damage will be prosecuted as such...The basic problem of over regulation needs to addressed, otherwise our forests will be devoured by wildfires and at the present rate of reclamation and restoration will enjoy much the same impact as a mosquito on an elephants hindend.

Please provide clear, specific disclosure (maps/tables where appropriate), explain how the proposed actions are necessary to meet the project's stated Purpose and Need, and analyze the on-the-ground impacts so the public can meaningfully review and comment.

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