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Comments: I have spent a significant amount of time reviewing the DEIS, and I want to express how personally important this landscape is to me and my family. Areas like the Clear Creek/Dry Fork drainage, Bridge Creek, Summit Creek, and Mill Creek are not just names on a map-they are places where four generations of my family have gathered resources, hunted, camped, and built memories. These lands are central to our identity as Oregonians, and they continue to be an essential part of our rural community's way of life.

My primary concern relates to the proposal's approach to road access, particularly the use of "stored" roads and the shift toward designated routes only. The DEIS does not provide a clear distinction between "stored" and "closed" roads in terms of practical public use. From the perspective of local residents, a stored road is just as inaccessible as a closed one, regardless of the terminology. This change threatens to cut off historical access to important areas for firewood gathering, hunting, mushrooming, and other traditional uses. For many in our community-especially older residents or those with limited mobility-motorized access is the only way to reach these places. Without it, family activities and seasonal resource gathering will become impossible. I am also deeply concerned about how these access changes could impact emergency response and public safety. We have seen firsthand how closed or bermed roads delay fire crews and equipment during wildfire season, putting both the forest and surrounding communities at greater risk.

The DEIS does not adequately explain how restricting access aligns with the project's stated Purpose and Need, especially when it comes to managing fuels and protecting resources. If the agency believes these closures are necessary, the rationale should be laid out clearly so the public can understand why less restrictive alternatives would not achieve the same objectives. The proposal's current direction also risks undermining rural economies and the social fabric of our community. Restricting access will not only reduce opportunities for household resource use, but will also discourage tourism and family recreation. When access is limited to a few designated routes, it concentrates visitors into smaller areas, leading to increased resource damage and user conflicts-something we have seen happen elsewhere in Oregon. The DEIS should analyze these impacts in detail and consider a reasonable alternative that maintains open access while still meeting management goals.

In addition, I am concerned about the project's timber production numbers. While I support active management and would rather see timber harvested than lost to wildfire, I question whether the projected timber outputs are realistic given the ongoing legal and procedural challenges that have stalled similar projects in the past.

The DEIS should provide transparent, detailed information about how these numbers were calculated, what assumptions were made about species mix and market conditions, and whether these production targets can be met without sacrificing the motorized access that local residents rely on. Finally, the maps and definitions in the DEIS do not match statements made by staff at public meetings, where we were told that no road closures would occur. This inconsistency makes it difficult for the public to understand what is truly being proposed. If the Forest Service has the data and rationale, it should be shown clearly so the public can understand and respond.

I urge the agency to provide clear, specific information-including up-to-date maps and tables-about proposed road designations and closures, to explain how these actions are necessary to meet the project's stated Purpose and Need, and to analyze the real impacts to local access and community well-being. Please consider an alternative that maintains open forest designation and existing road access, as this is essential for the continued use and enjoyment of these public lands by current and future generations.