

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/14/2026 5:24:47 PM

First name: Mike

Last name: Mitchell

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Support active management and rural forest infrastructure. I support forest management that reduces wildfire risk, restores forest health, and improves forage conditions for big game. The final plans should also provide a dependable supply of forest products that helps sustain Eastern Oregon's remaining mills and workforce, because that infrastructure is essential to accomplishing restoration work. Active management should be paired with measurable habitat and watershed protections so that economic and ecological benefits occur together.

Keep elk on public lands. The final plans should include a clear, measurable standard for elk security so that elk stay distributed across public lands where the public can hunt them, rather than concentrating on private property. Open, well-traveled roads are the single biggest factor in where elk spend their time during hunting season. The final plans should include direction on open road density and seasonal access so that habitat investments actually translate into elk on the ground. Improved forage does not help if the road network keeps elk away from it.

Carry forward the locally crafted desired conditions for elk security. The Blue Mountains Intergovernmental Council, made up of county governments, Tribes, and state and federal agencies, developed an agreed-upon desired condition for elk security. The Forest Service should honor collaborative work and build it into the final plans.