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Organization:

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Comments: I care deeply about the Blue Mountains and spend a lot of time recreating on the surrounding forests. I value seeing these places in a natural state, without the damage that can come from vehicles and people driving all over the forest. Protecting the landscape and wildlife is important to me, and I do not support efforts to expand motorized access at the expense of the environment. The final plan must protect and maintain the current balance of motorized access, and restore it only where it truly serves public needs without harming habitat or scenery. Wildlife and habitat direction should not be weakened to allow more vehicle use. The Forest Service must fully disclose and analyze how any changes to access or management would affect roads, routes, local families, communities, and working lands, including grazing and timber work. These activities need practical access, but not at the cost of the land's health or the loss of quiet, natural areas. The plan must also consider how changes will affect household use, rural traditions, local jobs, and access for older or less-mobile people, but not use those needs as an excuse to open up more of the forest to unnecessary vehicle travel. Direction for old growth and large trees should allow for active management that protects forest health and be clear about how standards will affect treatments and access. I am asking the Forest Service to protect the environment from the push by Forest Access For All to weaken recommended management of our forests. This group has repeatedly misinformed the public about management plans and is not acting in the best interest of the wider community. Their history and actions show they cannot be trusted to represent the needs of everyone who cares about these forests. The Forest Service must prioritize environmental protection and responsible management in the final plan.