

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/3/2026 3:38:52 PM

First name: Brian

Last name: Stewart

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing because motorized access and keeping public routes open are critical for me and my family. My family has used these mountains for generations-for camping, hunting, fishing, gathering firewood, and just spending time together. Places like Spring Creek, Bridge Creek, Yellow Jacket, Pearson Creek, and Birch Creek are part of our lives. This is our land, and we use it year-round. We want to keep it open and accessible for ourselves, our kids, and future generations. Motorized access is essential for how we use the forest. It lets us camp, gather firewood, reach our favorite fishing spots, and get in and out for emergencies or fire response. I see that access is already limited now. The roads are important for families like mine, and losing more access would hurt how we raise our kids to enjoy and care for the outdoors. It would also make it harder for older family members to keep enjoying the places they love. I am also frustrated that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) does not provide clear maps, route baselines, or explanations that show how the plan will affect real roads, routes, Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) settings, or management areas. Without this information, the public cannot understand what is being proposed or give meaningful input about what will actually change on the ground. I use the Eagle Cap Wilderness, the Elkhorn Mountains, and the Blue Mountains from Heppner to Granite to Troy. These are our mountains, and you need to leave our roads and access alone. My family, including my grandkids and my parents, rely on these roads to get out and enjoy the forest. They only have a few years left to use what belongs to them, and closing roads would take that away. The Forest Service must provide a current route baseline, protect and maintain all existing public motorized access, and keep current open-area or cross-country opportunities where they exist. The final forest plan must protect existing access, restore any access already reduced, and keep public routes available throughout the life of the plan.