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Comments: The Blue Mountains of NE Oregon and SE Washington include wonderful natural areas that are critical for recreation, for habitat for the conservation of wildlife and plants, and for the provision of clean water, land and air. They are a moist mountainous region in an otherwise dry region. We should consider this area a resource for future generations as well as the present. This means that we should be cautious stewards with a view to the long term rather than focusing on current economic potential. These views have been shaped by a lifetime of enjoying time in the wonderful public lands that we have in Oregon.

I am very concerned that the proposed management in the Forest Service's preferred alternative for the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision will weaken protections for mature and old growth forests and the myriad ecological and recreational benefits they provide.

I urge the Forest Service to maintain strong, enforceable protections for clean water, fish, wildlife and mature and old-growth forests. These values bring more sustained economic benefit to local communities than short-term increased logging.

I urge the Forest Service to protect roadless areas and other landscapes from unnecessary development and fragmentation.

I urge the Forest Service to prioritize climate resilience, biodiversity and watershed protection in forest management decisions.

I urge the Forest Service to ensure a transparent science-based process for future project-level decisions with meaningful opportunities for public participation.