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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing because access to the Catherine Creek area and the surrounding National Forest lands in Union County is essential to me and my family. We rely on these forests for hunting, camping, gathering firewood, and spending time outdoors. These activities are not just hobbies-they are a core part of our lives and connect us to our community and each other. I depend on Forest Roads 7700, 7787, 2036, 2038, 600, and the various spur roads connected to them. These roads are how we reach the places that matter to us. My brother-in-law is a disabled veteran, and road access is especially important for him. It makes the difference between being able to join in outdoor activities and being left out. Our National Forests must stay accessible to people of all ages and abilities, and public lands need to provide real opportunities for families, hunters, campers, and disabled veterans. The final plan must protect and maintain existing motorized access, and on the Umatilla National Forest, the Forest Service must restore access where it has already been reduced. Wildlife and habitat policies must not be used to cut off access. The Forest Service also needs to fully disclose and analyze how any changes would affect roads, routes, families, and communities. The plan must support fuels reduction, active forest management, dependable emergency access, and effective fire response. I am asking the Forest Service to keep public access open to the Catherine Creek area and surrounding forests that local people depend on. do not close or restrict Forest Roads 7700, 7787, 2036, 2038, 600, or the spur roads that connect to them. These are vital routes for hunting, camping, firewood gathering, and other responsible uses. Losing them would make large parts of the forest much harder for local residents to reach. The Forest Service must also consider the needs of disabled veterans and others with mobility challenges when making any decisions about road closures or changes. My experience with my brother-in-law has shown how essential vehicle access is for people with physical limitations. I support responsible forest management and protecting forest health, but that can and should happen alongside keeping access available. The Forest Service must keep a practical network of roads and access routes in the Catherine Creek area instead of making decisions that unnecessarily limit use of these public lands. These forests are a vital part of life in Union County, and I want my family, my neighbors, disabled veterans, and future generations to keep having the chance to hunt, camp, gather firewood, and enjoy the Catherine Creek area. This is personal to me. Catherine Creek is not just a recreation spot-it is part of my community's way of life. I value having public forests where families can spend time together, continue traditions, and experience the outdoors in their own way. I hope the Forest Plan Revision protects forest health and long-term access, so future generations can enjoy the same opportunities we have today. The Forest Service must listen to those of us who live near and use these roads and make decisions that keep these public lands open, healthy, and meaningful for our communities.