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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing because I care deeply about access, roads, wildlife habitat, and wildfire response in the Blue Mountains, especially around Catherine Creek. This area is important to me and my family. We hunt, fish, hike, camp, and explore the forest together. These activities are a big part of our lives and depend on having a network of roads open to the public. Roads like Forest Roads 7700, 7787, 2036, 2038, 600, and their spur roads make it possible for people to reach campsites, hunting spots, fishing areas, and less crowded parts of the forest. Protecting these roads means protecting the opportunities families like mine have to spend time outdoors. The final forest plan must protect and maintain existing motorized access and restore access where it has already been reduced. Wildlife and habitat direction must not be used to reduce or close motorized access. The Forest Service must clearly disclose and analyze how any changes will affect roads, routes, families, and communities. The plan must also support active forest management, fuels reduction, dependable emergency access, and effective fire response. I am especially concerned about any closures or restrictions that would cut off access to Forest Roads 7700, 7787, 2036, 2038, 600, or the spur roads connected to them. The forest is used by many people for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, and gathering firewood. Management decisions must account for the people who rely on these roads for those purposes. Reducing the road system too much could take away public access to places that have always been available to local residents. The Forest Service must look closely at the long-term effects before closing any existing access routes. Spending time outdoors with family is one of the most valuable parts of living near the Blue Mountains. I want these experiences to continue, not just for my family but for future generations. Kids growing up here should be able to build their own connections to the forest, not find that access has been lost. Public access and responsible forest management can go hand in hand. Keeping the Catherine Creek area open and accessible will help preserve the outdoor traditions and family experiences that make these public lands special to our community.