

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/21/2026 1:31:50 AM

First name: Charles

Last name: Stephens

Organization:

Title:

Comments: It's truly discouraging to see the Trump administration's public lands plunder program show up so quickly after our summer fires. The post-fire plan here mirrors the deregulation and acceleration of pretty much every sector of the economy that liquidates public resources for a living. And quickly, before anyone realizes what's happening.

The 7-day comment period for this plan is an outrage, clearly designed to avoid any consideration of the relevant science or public input. Where is the justification for predicting high tree mortality? The severity of soil damage (BAER (<https://burnseverity.cr.usgs.gov/baer/>) certainly doesn't appear to warrant that sort of forecast. And a 300 ft wide clear cut along 37 miles of roads is grossly in excess of what would be required for future road safety. The plan proposes to allow the removal of an enormous amount of biomass that will be needed to sustain the growth of new forest and forest habitat for many important species, like mule deer, whose numbers have dropped by half in the last 20 years. Several of Oregon's Species of Conservation Concern, especially the ones who quickly adopt post-fire habitat like dead trees. Woodpeckers, owls, and bluebirds are among those. The proposed 3-4 snags per acre leaves almost nothing to sustain the post-fire recovery of the forest. What has the research from USFS scientists recommended in the past for in this situation - before the plunder acceleration?

Like most of the Trump administration's plunder-enabling rackets, this one should end up in litigation, given the lack of public input and the lack of justification for the proposal. To add insult to the public injury, the product of the clearcutting will likely end up fetching little revenue in an economy of the edge of worldwide and national depression, particularly in the housing and construction industry. Between rising interest rates and energy prices - not likely to come down anytime soon - now is not the time to be liquidating our public natural capital. It's a time for integrity in the stewardship of public resources and the living ecosystems that support us all.

I strongly urge USFS to provide a comment period of sufficient length to insure public deliberation, and to seriously reduce the amount of life-sustaining biomass being removed from the post-fire landscape.