

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/22/2026 3:24:24 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I grew up in Western Idaho and have had the privilege of living in Portland Oregon for the last 2 years. I love living in Oregon and the incredible access Oregonians have to public land is invaluable. In my brief two years here, I have had numerous weekends camping, hiking, skiing and fly fishing in the Blue Mountains. Access to wild places is an invaluable asset to Americans and these changes threatened to erode the wild quality of these public spaces. As an angler my primary concern is fish habitat and riparian ecosystem integrity, however these systems are all interconnected and compromising the integrity of one threatens the other. Specifically, agency must maintain mandatory riparian protections. I strongly oppose replacing the quantitative PACFISH and INFISH standards with flexible guidelines that use vague language like "when feasible". The plans must include mandatory standards for aquatic and riparian habitats to protect the systems that support over 80% of forest wildlife.

Further, I request lasting, forest-level protection for all roadless areas and a harder look at potential Wilderness quality lands. Please create a management area similar to 2A - Roadless Area in Alternative 3 that will provide permanent safeguards for our 722,000 acres of roadless lands. These plan components should mirror the 2001 Roadless Rule to ensure these landscapes are protected from logging and roadbuilding even if national regulations are rescinded.

Lastly, I urge you to restore enforceable protections for large trees. Please reject Alternative 2's maximum flexibility and instead include mandatory standards to protect all trees over 21 inches DBH.

Any transient brief increase in logging will likely only have brief economic gain for the region. Removing the roadless rule will conversely increase fire risk as >70% of forest fires start within 1/4 mile of a road. Losing the integrity of our wild public spaces will lead to long lasting, likely permanent damage, as these system are already under significant stress with global warming. We need to be aggressive in preserving these wild spaces.