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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Blue Mountains forests are a big part of how my family and community live, work, and connect with the land. As a lifelong resident of Cove, I have seen firsthand how important these forests are for household use and rural traditions. My family depends on public lands for things like gathering firewood, picking mushrooms, and enjoying motorized recreation together. These activities are not just for fun-they are part of how we provide for our families and keep our traditions alive. It is troubling to see so many of the roads I traveled as a child with my Grandfather, Father, and Uncle now closed. Because of these closures, access to firewood and animal harvesting has become very limited. This impacts not just my family, but also older, disabled, and less-mobile people in our community who rely on these roads to reach the forest and maintain our way of life. The final forest plan must protect and maintain the motorized access we have left and restore access where it has already been reduced. The analysis needs to fully account for how local families, rural communities, and people with limited mobility rely on these roads for everyday needs and traditions. The Forest Service must re-open closed roads and stop further road closures to make sure public land remains accessible for household use, firewood gathering, fire control, and community support.