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First name: Melissa

Last name: Stroy

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision must protect the public's ability to access and use the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest as we always have. My family lives surrounded by this forest, and for the past 25 years, we have depended on motorized access to recreate, gather firewood, hunt, fish, and pick berries. The final plan must protect and maintain all existing motorized access, and where access has already been reduced, it must be restored. Areas that have been roaded and historically open to motor vehicles must not be reclassified in ways that further restrict long-term public use. The plan must also ensure that grazing, timber work, road maintenance, and other working land uses remain practical and possible on the ground, with clear direction supporting these activities. Analysis must reflect the real needs of rural households, local economies, and families-especially those who rely on the forest for wood, food, and recreation, including older and less-mobile community members. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and alternatives must be compared thoroughly to the 1990 baseline plans so the public can clearly see what will change, increase, or decrease. Full transparency is required. The public needs to see who participated in the planning process, what information was used, and how public concerns were addressed. The final plan must include measurable baselines, regular public reporting, and enforceable corrective actions if promised outcomes are not met. Direction for old growth and large trees must allow for necessary active management and clearly explain how standards will affect forest health, fuels treatment, and access. The plan must support active forest management, effective wildfire response, dependable emergency access, and the ability to carry out fuels reduction work. Interim protections for river corridors and Wild and Scenic River segments must not reduce existing access or lawful uses, and the Forest Service must show the public exactly where and how any new direction would affect roads, routes, and uses. Mining claims, material sources, and other lawful access rights must also be protected. My request is clear: protect my motorized access and the open character of the forest that my family and community depend on. The final plan must not take away the access we have had for decades.