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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The Blue Mountains forests are a big part of how my family and community live, work, and spend time together. As a Baker County resident, born and raised here, I have deep roots in these woods

My family has lived and recreated here for four generations. We use the forest for all kinds of recreation: hiking, four-wheeling, camping, gathering berries and mushrooms. These activities have been passed down in my family, and I want my girls to have the same opportunities and experiences. For us, a day in the woods is more than just a pastime-it brings us peace, enjoyment, and connection to our home. Unrestricted access to these public lands is extremely important to me. In today's busy world, time is precious, and when I have the chance to get out into the forest, I need to know I can actually reach it-when I have the time, and by whatever means I have available. That includes motorized access, which is currently allowed under the "Open Forest" designation. This designation is essential for my family and my community, and the new plan must keep it in place. I do not want to see access reduced or restricted, and I expect the Forest Service to protect and maintain the motorized and traditional access we rely on. Where access has already been lost, it must be restored. The plan also needs to support active forest management, fuels work, dependable emergency access, and effective fire response. Keeping roads open is not just about recreation-it's about making sure first responders and land managers can do their jobs when wildfire or other emergencies happen. The old logging roads, for example, are not only great for exploring, but they also serve as critical routes for both walking and driving, supporting all these uses. I love this area for its natural beauty and the freedom that comes with real access. I value being able to head into the woods without needing a special permit or being forced into designated sites. Open Forest means just that-open. I explore, wander, and enjoy the forest respectfully, leaving no trace behind. The final plan must keep these freedoms intact for my family, my community, and future generations.