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First name: Priscilla

Last name: Coe

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I support Alternative 3 with the following recommendations:

1) Please include a provision that will ensure all large trees remain standing, whether live or dead. Large trees provide so many benefits that they should be protected - seed dispersal, soil protection, wildlife habitat, carbon sequestration are just a few. The screen of over 21" dbh is a good measure of large trees.

2) Include large-scale analysis around project areas to consider the effects of a project on habitat connectivity. Does the project take out the last or most of a wildlife corridor? If so, then it's important to mitigate for that resource.

3) Re-instate elk habitat models provided by the U.S. Forest Service Research Station in the Blue Mountains (<https://research.fs.usda.gov/pnw/projects/bluemountainseelknutritionandhabitatuse>) that clearly show how roads and nutritional resource change throughout the season in relation to elk use. Use these models to predict how elk will respond to changes in roads open to the public should a project increase this activity.

4) Maintain current standards for maintaining riparian protections for areas slated for logging and road building.

5) Protect current roadless areas from new road building (described in the EIS as 722,000 acres). These areas provide quality hunting, protection from human caused wildfires, and keep elk on public lands. Elk often move to private lands to avoid disturbance from open roads.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations. I look forward to a good forest plan in 2027!

Priscilla Coe

La Grande, Oregon