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Amber Ingoglia,

This is not a form letter,

I fought fire on the John Day Ranger District for the USFS on the Malhear Rappel Crew. Thinning followed by prescribed fire is smart. This will prevent extreme wildfire and slowly bring the ecosystem into balance, which is better for wildlife and better for

those who recreate in the forest. I have worked for the federal government for over 21 years. Having served as a Wildlife Biologist, firefighter, trail crew leader and wilderness ranger- I have seen what works and what doesn't in the forest.

Keeping open roads throughout the forest for recreation also maintains the ability to manage fire. Dirt roads and trails serve as burn breaks allowing both prescribed fire and wildfire to be managed. Roads are required to get firefighters in. Maintaining roads

and trails is a win for both the public, firefighters and forest health.

I have participated in prescribed fire since 1998. I used fire to improve wildlife habitat for endangered species.

Post thinning, diverse prescribed fire treatments is essential. Specifically, having several smaller prescribed burns of different intensity,

with different timing in patches will create the best wildlife habitat. Having unburned islands within the treatment area is important too, that keeps rare insects, small mammals and delicate amphibians present so they can recolonize the areas burned. The

end result is patches of habitat with different plants and ages of trees, this becomes a fire resistant healthy forest system with structural diversity. Best of all, the public is safer because of the reduced risk for uncontrollable fire.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback and I hope the USFS will seriously consider my feedback and maximize treatment and access on these public lands.

Keeping enough federal employees around to manage public land is a critical component to successful prescribed fire, thinning and managing increased road and trail access. Keep a longterm view, a multigenerational view, when thinking about what's best for the public and our shared natural resources.

Sincerely,

Greg Hamilton

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