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Comments:

Blue Mountain Forest Resiliency Project

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Returning the forest to a healthy productive level is in everyone's best interests and I support efforts to do so, but not at the expense of trade-offs in the form of roads closures that will restrict local communities access and will negatively impact local economies.

We all know that road closures are hid in many forms of language.

Improve existing road networks to provide access for forest treatments while meeting forest plan standards and guidelines as well as Endangered Species Act consultation guidance. We need assurance that any roads used for this project remain open. One intention of the project speaks to increase public and firefighter safety.

Language needs to be included that will secure the public access.

I adamantly disagree with the statement---"Where necessary, currently closed roads may be used to implement treatments, but they would be closed immediately after use". I ask who the agency is answering to when taking such a stand.

Once again this is another plan with the appearance of bartering away access. In this instance, an economic gain for timber production is questionable. This has all the feeling of a giant weeding event stretching over a ten year period. This plan is full of speculation, none more said than, "To create a future forest that is more resilient to changing fire regimes and climate, there is a need to take greater action now to restore our landscapes, increase fire's beneficial effects, and reduce the exposure of communities, highly valued resources, and fire sensitive habitats to the unwanted effects of fire and other damaging disturbances". Tell me isn't this what the forest service has been doing?

1. There is no delineation of which roads are currently identified as "closed" for public to comment in the scoping period. Roads Identified as "currently closed" should be mapped, and displayed for public comment during scoping period so that an accurate assessment of current road uses by the public are identified as to not cause undo hardship on planners or local residents.

2. Define "improve existing road networks" does that mean fixing roads to minimize impacts, or decommissioning roads to meet ESA standards that negatively impact the local residents.

These issues need to be resolved.

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