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Umatilla National Forest

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Accelerated restoration proposal:

In the 70's and 80's when I was purchaser rep. for the sales Boise Cascade purchase the forest service sale reps were experienced, dirt foresters, with common sense. Together, with the loggers I believe we practiced appropriate forest management. Many of the acres managed at that time are healthy. More importantly respect between the forest service and the local people was very good and the communities were healthy.

For a number of reasons I believe the pace and scale of forest restoration will not accelerate enough to provide healthy forests and communities. The forest service is at a great disadvantage because of organizations similar to HCPC.

What Wallowa County and many other counties require are about 300,000 acres of federal land that has been transferred to and owned and managed by the citizens of the county and regulated by the Oregon Department of Forestry. This along with a manufacturing facility would have many benefits for the county. 300,000 acres would support a medium sized mill forever and provide a facility where local timber land owners could sell logs.

With a manufacturing facility buying logs and smaller forest fuels, the logging process could be a "once and done operation." It would support many more family wage jobs, funds for schools and roads, open roads for firewood and firefighting, appropriate forest management and utilizing fuel burned on site, all creating healthy forests and communities.

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