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Comments:

March 15, 2016

Blue Mountain Restoration Strategy Team

Ayn Shlisky

Umatilla National Forest

72510 Coyote Road

Pendleton, OR 97801

Dear Ayn:

Following are my comments on the Blue Mountains Resiliency Project. My name is Frances M. Preston, representing myself as a citizen I live at 121 South Washington Street and receive mail at PO Box 3, Prairie City, Oregon 97869.

What are the roads currently identified as closed in the treatment areas proposed? It is difficult to comment fully unless I know which roads are being targeted for closure/decommissioning/obliterated once the vegetation has been treated.

What happens if closure/decommissioning/obliteration fall in areas with private property, irrigation features, active mining claims, active grazing allotments, historic camping sites, firewood/berry gathering areas or historically hunting food via motorized means areas. Each of these areas require roads to maintain those uses I need to know them by name so that I can assure my requests to protection.

For the most part I agree with the vegetative treatment; however, I don't agree with the idea to re-close currently closed roads. I request that during scoping to see the proposed closures and give input up front as to current use of the roads targeted for decommissioning/closure/obliteration in the project and have those roads currently in use removed from the "re-closures".

It is my understanding that (highways) roads/trails/cow trails/horse trails, buggy trails, etc. that were put into place prior to October 1976 are public domain access right-of-ways protected for the use of the general public to access all natural resources of the country to sustain our lives. Is there an inventory of these roads? Could any roads on the list being considered for closure be removed from the closure/decommissioning list as they are not eligible.

Another concern is that during the Travel Management process it was found that the roads identified as "closed" were incorrect and that roads were currently being used by the public. Is that still the case or has that been corrected?

Would it be possible prior to the deciding of alternatives that the team holds meetings in affected communities to ask if the roads identified as "closed" in the proposed areas are actually closed and not being used?

Does the Aquatics Restoration EA apply to this project? If so, how and where is it being applied?

Was Coordination Invoked by the County Government(s) or any other government(s) on this project? If so, when and what were the specifics?

Were the County(ies) Public Lands Natural Resources Plan(s) reviewed or considered in this project? If not, why not and if so, in what specific areas?

Referencing the County(ies) Public lands Natural Resources Plan please let me know specifically how the Blue Mountains Resiliency Project addresses the following areas:

- Data Quality
- Economy
- Access and Travel Management
- Livestock Production
- Forest Resources
- Mining
- Recreation and Tourism
- Watersheds

NEPA requires the project be coordinated with local government.

- Have the local governments been involved? Who and for how long? If not, why not?
- What are their positions? Have those positions been taken into account? If not, why not? If so, specifically how? Have those positions been discussed and analyzed? If so, please can we see the analysis? If not, why not?
- Are there items needing to be resolved?
- Any inconsistencies between the local government(s) and the federal agencies? What is the plan for discussion of any conflicts that cannot be resolved?
- How will those discussions be documented in the final document?
- When an inconsistency exists will there be a statement describing the extent to which the agency would reconcile its proposed action?
- Will the agency actively work to find ways to resolve inconsistencies and if they cannot, explain why these could not be resolved in an analysis?
- Has an analyses been done or will one be done to show the "impact this proposed action will have on the productive use of our land and local economy"?

How do I obtain Data Quality (Data Quality Act of Information Quality Act of 2001) information on the Blue Mountains Resiliency Project specific to:

- Quality
- Objectivity
- Utility
- Integrity

Was an analysis of the economic and social impact on the small communities as required by "the Regulatory Flexibility Act" done to the extent necessary to make a decision? If so, please can we see the report and if not, why not? Was the data used local data? What were the data sources? What was the outcome?

Respectfully submitted,
Frances M Preston
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