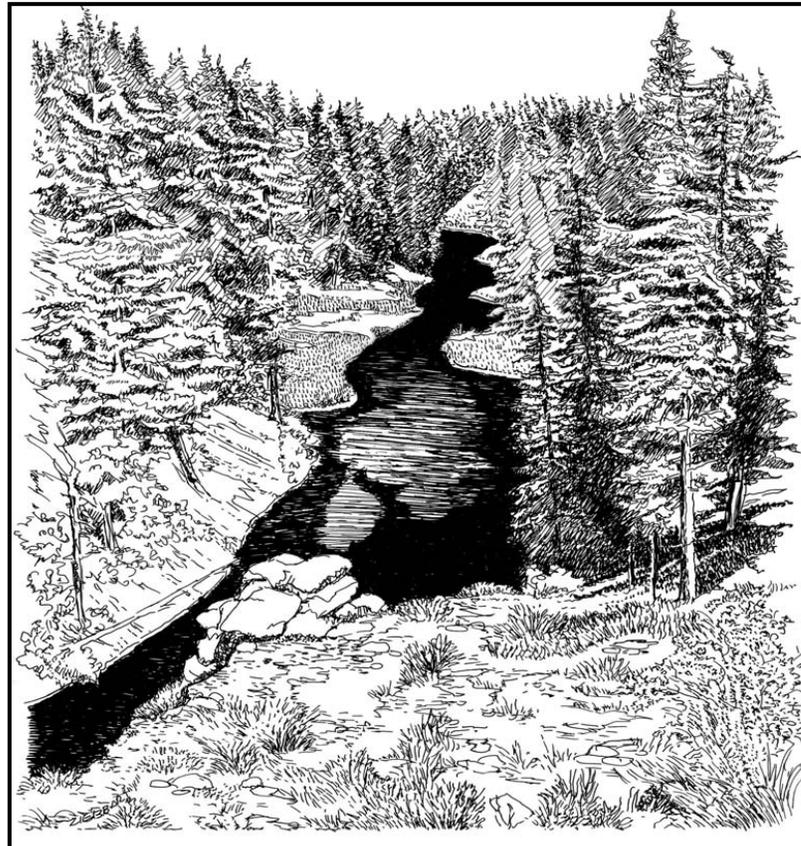




Blue Mountains

Forest Plan Revision



July 2010



Forest Service
Enterprise Unit
1602 Ontario St.
Sandpoint, ID
83864
208-265-6621

Summary of Public Comments Received during Scoping

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Introduction

The Blue Mountains Notice of Intent and Proposed Action was released on Monday, March 29, 2010, for a 60-day comment period, which closed on Friday, May 28, 2010. The Forest Service received a total of 4,174 comment letters, of which 110 comment letters contained unique and substantially different comments. The letters, emails, form letters, and public comment forms were received from individuals, organizations, agencies, business owners, and elected officials. Four form letters were received from 4,025 individuals (see Appendix C for demographics and samples of the form letters).

All of the comment letters were analyzed using a process called content analysis that was completed by a third-party contractor (see process described in Appendix A). In addition to the reports produced from the content analysis process, the Forest Supervisor and Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) members read all the comment letters. Of the 110 comment letters that contained unique and substantially different comments, there were 1,243 comments that were analyzed and addressed through the content analysis process. These 1,243 comments were then grouped by

like-comments and 61 Topics of Concern were developed. The Topics of Concern were then reviewed by the IDT and then the IDT identified the Significant Issues that would be considered in the development of the Alternatives for the DEIS. The Topics of Concern begin on page 6 of this report and the Significant Issues begin on page 9. There is not a response to each of the Topics of Concern or Significant Issues in this report because that is not part of the requirements for the scoping process; however the Significant Issues will be tracked through all of the Alternatives in the DEIS.

List of Commenters and Associated Topics of Concern

Each Topic of Concern is derived from like-comments that were grouped during the content analysis process. Following is a Table listing all the comments and the Topic of Concern numbers that address the general concerns shared in their individual letters and following the table are the Topics of Concern in numerical order.

Organizations	Last Name	First Name	Topics of Concern #
ALDRICH MTN WORKING GROUP	BAGETT	MARK	2, 6, 28
AMERICAN FOREST RESOURCE COUNCIL	PARTIN	TOM	3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 29, 31, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 54, 58, 59
ANDERSON FORESTRY CONSULTING	ANDERSEN	ARVID	31
ASSOCIATED OREGON LOGGERS INC	STORM	REX	1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 27, 28, 31, 34, 35, 37, 39, 30, 43, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 54, 58
BAKER COUNTY PRIVATE WOODLANDS ASSN	EDWARDS	STEPHEN	6, 9, 13, 31, 37, 46
BLUE MOUNTAINS BIODIVERSITY PROJECT	COULTER	KAREN	1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20, 27, 31, 37, 38, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 49, 50, 54, 58, 59, 60
BOISE WOOD PRODUCTS	FULLERTON	JOHN	1, 4, 9, 29, 31, 32, 34, 39, 40, 44, 54, 58, 59
BURLEY & ASSOCIATES LLC	BURLEY	CHUCK	57
CAPITAL TRAIL VEHICLE ASSN	SALO	KEN	1, 3
CITY OF HALFWAY (Form letter #2)			2
DESCHUTES COUNTY 4-WHEELERS	DRAKE	MONA	1, 2, 4
DUNN CARNEY ALLEN HIGGINS & TONGUE	HOWARD	ELIZABETH	4, 12, 59
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION 10	KUBO	TERESA	1, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12, 31, 34, 41, 45, 48, 50, 51, 55, 58
FSEEE	FAIRBROTHER	JENNIFER	40, 57
GAZELLE LAND & TIMBER LLC	WILLIAMS	KING	2, 3, 35, 37, 40, 46
GRANT COUNTY CONSERVATIONISTS	DRISKILL	LINDA	11, 18, 26, 32, 34, 37, 49, 50, 54, 58, 60

Organizations	Last Name	First Name	Topics of Concern #
GRANT COUNTY OFF ROAD ASSN	HANNIBAL	DAVE	1, 2, 3, 16
GRANT COUNTY PUBLIC FOREST COMMISSION	WILLIAMS	KING	1, 2, 3, 5, 9, 32, 32, 34, 35, 36, 37, 40, 42, 46, 50, 54, 58
GRANT COUNTY RESOURCES ENHANCEMENT ACTION TEAM	WILLIAMS	KING	37
GRANT COUNTY SHERIFFS OFFICE	PALMER	GLENN	2
GRANT COUNTY SNOBALLERS	PALMER	GLENN	2
HACKNEY CONSTRUCTION	HACKNEY	STEPHEN	2, 16, 38, 46, 50, 55
BLUE MOUNTAINS COUNTIES	GRASTY	STEVEN	1, 2, 3, 31, 32, 37, 46, 58
HELLS CANYON PRESERVATION COUNCIL	DYSON	GREG	4, 53
HELLS CANYON PRESERVATION COUNCIL	MILDREXLER	DAVID	57
HELLS CANYON PRESERVATION COUNCIL, OREGON CHAPTER SIERRA CLUB, OREGON WILD, OREGON NATURAL DESERT ASSOCIATION, THE LANDS COUNCILS, BARK, PLANETO AZUL, WILDLANDS CPR	MILDREXLER	DAVID	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 12, 15, 18, 19, 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 34, 35, 38, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 46, 49, 50, 51, 54, 55, 56, 58
IDAHO POWER COMPANY	BACZKOWSKI	STACEY	57
IRON TRIANGLE LLC	YOUNG	RUSS	3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 29, 31, 32, 35, 37, 39, 40, 43, 44, 46, 54, 58, 59
JOHN DAY/SNAKE RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL	YOUTIE	BERTA	3, 5, 34, 58
KING INC	WILLIAMS	ZACH	2, 37, 46
LEWIS CLARK ATV CLUB	MCIVER	JIM	1, 55, 57
MONET LOGGING INC	DAVIE	MONETT	31, 33, 40, 44, 46, 58
OLD PINE MARKET	BRYAN	RICH AND LAURI	1
OREGON DEQ	YON	DON	4, 34, 45, 50, 58, 60
OREGON FOUNDATION FOR NORTH AMERICAN WILD SHEEP	HOUSTON	GEORGE	1, 4, 45
STATE OF OREGON	BIRCH	KEVIN	1, 4, 5, 6, 12, 31, 34, 37, 40, 44, 45, 46, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 54, 58
OREGON SPORTSMEN	CROW	MARION	1, 2, 56
OREGON WILD (Form letter #1)			2, 18
OREGON WILD	HEIKEN	DOUG	57
OREGON WILD WESTERN FIELD OFFICE	LEGUE	CHANDRA	57
PACIFIC CORP ENERGY	HOWISON	RUSS	57
PACIFIC NW 4 WHEEL DRIVE ASSN	BROOKS	ARLENE	1
PACIFIC NW 4 WHEEL DRIVE	NETTNIN	EARL	1, 2

Organizations	Last Name	First Name	Topics of Concern #
ASSN			
PANHANDLE SNOWMOBILE CLUB	BLOOM	WHITEY	1
POWDER BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL			2, 25, 58
PRAIRIE CITY RANGER DISTRICT	KRANICH	CINDY	57
PRAIRIE WOOD PRODUCTS	BISHOP	DAN	37
RICHLAND CITY HALL		JENNIE	57
ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION	RICHARDSON	BILL	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 18, 31, 37, 40, 44, 45, 48, 49, 52, 54, 58
RY TIMBER INC	DUNN	BRUCE	1, 4, 5, 32, 39, 40, 43, 46, 50, 53, 58
SNOMOBILE ALLIANCE OF WESTERN STATES	RAINSBERRY	SUSAN	57
SNOWMOBILE ALLIANCE OF WESTERN STATES	HURWITZ	DAVE	1, 2, 3, 4, 18, 19, 22, 26, 27, 37
SUN MINES	SMITH	NICHOLAS	35
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY (Form Letter #3)	FREIMARK	BOB	2, 5, 15, 18, 50
US SENATOR	JEFF	MERKLEY	57
WA DEPT OF FISH & WILDLIFE	SCHIRM	TOM	5, 15, 29, 32, 34, 43, 49, 50, 52, 56, 58, 59
WALLOWA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS	HAYWARD	MIKE	1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 12, 15, 31, 32, 35, 37, 38, 39, 40, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 54, 58, 59
WALLOWA VALLEY ONLINE	DIETRICH	ANGELIKA	57
	ALDERSON	GEORGE AND FRANCES	2
	ANONYMOUS		2
	ANONYMOUS		1, 11, 16, 46
	BAILEY	VADE	56
	BALLENGER	BOB	3
	BASTIAN	LINDY	2, 24, 28, 56
	BOND	MONTY	2, 23, 27, 56
	BRICKLES	CHARLES	1, 2
	BURLEY	CHUCK	57
	CARLSON	JIM	1, 2, 16, 32, 33, 39, 55
	CASE	CHRIS	2, 27, 28
	CASS	PENNY	2, 18
	CHASE	ART	1, 3, 40
	COOPER	CHRIS	2
	CRISTLER	ERNEST	1
	EBERHARD	KENNETH	31, 40, 46
	ELKINS	RICHARD AND ELIZABETH	1, 2, 3
	FAGEN-WIRGES	SUSIE	2
	FORD	JERRY	1, 56

Organizations	Last Name	First Name	Topics of Concern #
	GARRISON	KIMA	1, 2, 11, 45, 46, 55
	GIANNINY	BOB	57
	HARDT	ED	1, 5, 6
	HESS	MICHAEL	2
	HOLENSTEIN	KATHRYN	31
	HOLLAND	CARMELITA	1, 9, 13, 31, 37, 46
	HOPKINS	TERESA	2, 18
	HOTCHKISS	MANFORD	1, 56
	HOUSTON	GEORGE	57
	HOWARD	GREG	5, 32, 35, 37, 40, 49
	INSKO	TOM	9, 37
	IVY	VICTORIA	2, 18
	JACKSON	WILLIAM	1, 2, 3, 4
	JAMES	RANDY	2
	JEROME	IRENE	31, 32, 34
	KING	TONY	46
	KING	TONY	47, 54
	LARSON	PAT	4
	LIVRAN	JOHN	19
	LYNN	DAVID	37
	MAESTAS	LOU	1
	MEAL	TIM	2, 28, 56
	MEREDITH	GEORGE	5, 34, 37, 40, 44, 46, 50, 58
	MICHAEL	GUY	1, 6, 35, 38
	MILES	ROBERT	2
	MOGSTAD	JONI	57
	NICHOL	FRAZIER	1, 39, 58
	NICHOLS	NANCY	2, 18
	OIEN	DOUG	57
	ORORKE	CHARLIE	1, 2, 4, 9, 12, 18, 19, 23, 26, 29, 31, 32, 39, 40, 44, 46, 48, 54, 60
	PACE	CHARLES	9, 49, 51, 58
	PARKER	C	57
	PETERSON	JAMES	8
	POTTER	DALE	57
	RICHARDS	TERRIE	1, 9, 57
	RUNNELS	PETE	32, 34, 37
	SAGERT	GERALD	2, 23
	SAGERT	JEAN	2, 23
	SCHENCK	MARVIN	1, 2, 3, 8, 15, 39
	SCHOENFELD	ERIC	2, 18, 151
	SEMON	E	2, 16, 17, 56
	SKOVLIN	JON & DONNA	4, 6, 15, 19, 31, 44, 45, 49, 54, 59
	SMITH	BRAD	2, 15
	SMITH	HAROLD	1, 2
	STITCHER	JESSICA	1, 49
	SWART	EVELYN	25
	TOLL	BETSY	2, 18
	TOWNSEND	ANDREA	2, 55
	TRIGGS	DAVIE	4, 59

Organizations	Last Name	First Name	Topics of Concern #
	VOGEL	JOHN	57
	WELLS-ELLIOTT	NANCY	57
	WERDINGER	LEON	2
	WHITAKER	WILLIAM	2, 16, 38, 46, 50, 55
	WOOD	DEANN	2, 6, 31
	WUERTHNER	GOERGE	1, 2, 9, 11, 16, 44, 46
	ZIEGENBEIN	CLARINE	1, 2
Form Letter #4			2, 28, 56

Topics of Concern

Following are the “Topics of Concern” that were developed from the 1,243 coded comments in the Content Analysis process:

- 1) Address amount of access and recreational opportunities for motorized and/or non-motorized users, address user conflict; and motorized cross-country travel
- 2) Address amount of recommended wilderness areas and address suitability
- 3) Ensure a range of alternatives and address funding for each action alternative. Additional alternatives include a pro-motorized recreation alternative; an alternative that removes the 21 inch rule for harvesting timber; an alternative that adequately addresses the need for forest restoration that is ecologically, economically, and socially sustainable; and an alternative that is a true multiple use alternative
- 4) Use best available science and/or specified references from public comment in the analysis
- 5) Consider the effects of climate change
- 6) Maintain and/or enhance collaboration and/or coordination with other agencies, local government, and the public
- 7) Ensure appropriate protection for cultural resources
- 8) Consider the effects of and opportunities for energy development
- 9) Provide management direction to address wildland fires, catastrophic fires, prescribed fires, the risk of wildland fire in the wildland urban interface, and the effects to air quality and scenic integrity
- 10) Assess the demand for forest products
- 11) Prohibit livestock grazing
- 12) Provide management direction for livestock grazing, while ensuring adequate forage, habitat diversity, water quality, and properly function riparian areas to support aquatic and wildlife species
- 13) Provide management direction for insect and disease treatments
- 14) Address cooperation with adjacent land owners regarding management factors that transcend boundaries (road access, forest management, right-of ways/easements, invasive species control, wildfire, boundary posting etc.)
- 15) Address suitability for designated wilderness management

- 16) Manage Potential Wilderness Areas (IRAs) as recommended wilderness
- 17) Prohibit activities within Wilderness Studies Areas that would prevent them from being congressionally designated as wilderness
- 18) Address amount of Designated and/or Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers and address suitability
- 19) Address amount of Natural Research Areas and address suitability
- 20) Address suitability for Botanical Areas
- 21) Increase Geological Areas and develop clear and attainable standards and guidelines
- 22) Address suitability for Historical Areas
- 23) Increase the number of Nationally Designated Trails and develop standards and guidelines
- 24) Address amount of Scenic Areas, consider for recommended wilderness, develop standards and guidelines, and address suitability
- 25) Include private and/or public domestic water supplies with Municipal Watersheds or create a new Management Area for such and address suitability
- 26) Address suitability and reassess the standards and guidelines for Riparian Management Areas
- 27) Address amount of Non-motorized Undeveloped Areas and address suitability
- 28) Address amount of Limited Motorized Undeveloped Areas and address suitability
- 29) Address suitability in General Forest and develop clear and attainable Standards and Guidelines
- 30) Develop clear and attainable Standards and Guidelines for Developed Sites and Admin Areas
- 31) Develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce overstocked forests; identify amount and type of treatments needed to reduce insect epidemics; identify the types of treatments needed to allow species shifts induced by climate change to occur; the options explored in the EIS should not be completely constrained by the current budget levels; and establish clear and attainable standards and guidelines that do not obstruct future management for restoring and maintaining Terrestrial Vegetation Conditions
- 32) Develop a comprehensive strategy to reduce overstocked forests; identify amount and type of treatments needed to reduce insect epidemics; identify the types of treatments needed to allow species shifts induced by climate change to occur; the options explored in the EIS should not be completely constrained by the current budget levels; and establish clear and attainable standards and guidelines that do not obstruct future management for restoring and maintaining Terrestrial Vegetation Conditions
- 33) Develop a comprehensive strategy that includes human traditions and cultures; does not marginalized the value of economic well-being in local communities; acknowledges the effects of forest management on local dependent communities; recognizes that social and economic components cannot be separated from ecological systems; and establish clear and attainable goals for restoring and maintaining Social and Economic Conditions
- 34) Implement a detailed monitoring plan that addresses requirements, implementation, effectiveness, adequacy, reporting methods, how the data is to be acquired and used, and what actions are to be taken if the outcomes are inadequate or unsustainable for all resources
- 35) Ensure you are adhering to laws, regulations, and policies when analyzing data and developing management direction, while also basing management on proven science. For

example, monitor MIS population trends in order to evaluate the effects of forest management activities on MIS, and explain why the AMS is not listed as one of the six decisions per CFR 219.11

- 36) Consider completing 3 Forest Plans with 3 separate analyses
- 37) Consider social and economic concerns to be equal to ecological concerns when developing management direction. For example, there will be economic loss from the motorized community when more NFS land is designated wilderness and lack of forest management and its effect on lumber mills and local economies
- 38) Provide direction for vegetation management that protects and restores soil quality
- 39) Address the issue and provide management direction for maintaining healthy forests through many methods such as: active timber harvest and silviculture management, prescribed burning, even-age harvest methods, and stand density control used with unevenage or irregular shelterwood; and ensure any method considers scenic integrity. Forests are severely overstocked due to lack of active timber management causing severe fire conditions, insect and disease, and climate change will make these conditions worse.
- 40) Provide management direction for Allowable Sale Quantity, timber production; review the analysis and unit of measure; include an analysis of what type of harvest level is necessary to maintain the current timber infrastructure; and address the issue of reliable timber harvest that will maintain healthy forests
- 41) Conduct government to government consultation with the affected tribes and include documentation on how tribal input was considered
- 42) Address the issue of salvage logging and its effects on large snags and other vegetation
- 43) Consider wildlife when planning any management activities (i.e., vegetation treatments, road closures), such as snags for black-backed woodpeckers, goshawk nesting sites, bat roost sites, etc.
- 44) Provide management direction to address vegetation management for composition (includes snags and down wood), stand density, structure, and landscape patterns
- 45) Provide management direction that addresses invasive species
- 46) Reanalyze and rewrite the management direction for old forests to address the issue of insects and disease and the 21" DBH limit for harvesting timber
- 47) Provide management direction that protects all plants that are federally listed TES and species at risk
- 48) Provide management direction to ensure protection of source water areas that provide water supply (i.e., for drinking and irrigation) from NFS lands
- 49) Provide management direction for all aquatic species, including native and desirable non-native species, amphibians such as the Columbia spotted frog, TES species, MIS species, Species at Risk, and Focal Species; and consider laws such as the Oregon fish passage law and Plans such as the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and update PACFISH and INFISH direction through this new management direction
- 50) Provide management direction to: protect water quality and quantity in all watersheds, meet TMDLs, restore watersheds, protect riparian areas, minimize soil disturbance in watersheds and protect soils, consider highly degraded aquatic ecosystems while ensuring threats to

existing strongholds are mitigated, and address the critical function of ground water recharge areas

- 51) Should consider State wildlife management plans, and other Plans; and adhere to the Endangered Species Act and other Acts, when developing management criteria for wildlife
- 52) Provide management direction for elk habitat and security; and maintain big game winter and summer range
- 53) Provide direction to maintain bighorn sheep habitat and populations; and maintain effective separation to eliminate rise of contact between bighorn and domestic sheep
- 54) Address and provide management direction for all wildlife species and their habitat in the Plan; including mule deer, Canada lynx, wolves, wolverine, sage grouse, neo-tropical migrant and native forest-dependent birds, beaver, wild horses, Threatened and Endangered Species, Management Indicator Species, Species of Interest, and Focal Species
- 55) Address wildlife corridors in regards to migration routes, habitat connectivity, and predator control
- 56) Out of Scope comments and Project-level comments
- 57) Letters that requested information
- 58) Letters that contained editorial edits to the Proposed Action document
- 59) Comments that question the adequacy of data or information within the Proposed Action document
- 60) Comment letters that had attachments
- 61) Thank you for your comment

Significant Issues

To identify issues for the forest plan revision, comments were solicited from four sources:

- 1) Public involvement, including open houses, scoping letters, conversations, and meetings with special interest groups.
- 2) Discussions with cooperating agencies including the county governments of northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington, the State of Oregon, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.
- 3) Collaborators including the John Day-Snake Resource Advisory Committee.
- 4) Internal agency discussions based on changes in law and policy, changed conditions and resource needs.

Significant Issues

Significant issues are those that are unresolved issues used in environmental analyses to formulate alternatives, prescribe mitigation measures, or analyze environmental effects. At the forest planning level, mitigation measures are incorporated into management direction (goals and objectives, desired conditions, and standards and guidelines) or management prescriptions that influence the type, amount, and intensity of management actions that implement the forest plan.

The responsible official selects significant issues for revision based on one or more of the following criteria:

- Would these issues be used to help develop management alternatives or management direction or would they be used in the allocation of management prescriptions?
- Would management alternatives, direction, or prescriptions have discernable effects on the issues or related resources?
- Would effects to the issues be sufficiently different by alternative to provide the responsible official with rationale for choosing a preferred or selected alternative?

Key Indicators

Key indicators are measurable indicators of change linked to significant issues. Indicators associated with each issue have a cause and effect relationship and provide a way to assess how the alternatives respond to those issues.

Significant Issues that Drive Alternative Development

Issue 1: Access

Public Concern

While some people suggested allocating additional areas of undeveloped back country to satisfy needs such as solitude and non-motorized recreation, others requested that additional areas be designated where motor vehicle recreation is allowed and not reduce what is currently available.

Statement

While the forest plan will not change designations of roads and trails for motor vehicle use; it will provide direction for future planning of motor vehicle routes and areas. In addition, the forest plan designates areas where the dominant uses are non-motorized, which restricts the potential for development of motor vehicle access. It also designates areas where development for motor vehicle use could be considered. Motor vehicle access is needed for hunting and fishing, summer and winter recreation, private land access, management activities, and fire suppression. Non-motorized areas are needed for hunting and fishing, summer and winter recreation, secluded wildlife habitat, and biological reserves. The number of acres suitable for motor vehicle use and the desired conditions for road densities will influence the future transportation system and future road closure or development opportunities. These acres are an important factor affecting the health of terrestrial, aquatic, and riparian habitats.

This issue will influence the development of alternatives that will be used to evaluate the tradeoffs between the types of recreation opportunities available, density of use, and types of access available for future management actions.

Key Indicators

- Percent of the national forest suitable for summer motor vehicle use
- Percent of the national forest suitable for winter motor vehicle use
- Projected miles of roads and trails (summer and winter) maintained (graded, brushed, etc.) annually
- Projected miles of roads closed and rate of closure to meet desired conditions
- Road and motor vehicle trail densities

Issue 2: Ecological Resiliency

Public Concern

Many people expressed concern about the level and types of anticipated vegetation management in the proposed action. Some felt that too much or not enough vegetation management activities were proposed. There are concerns that the amount of landscape hazard (risk) due to the condition of vegetation is over or understated. Many supported an active management approach to achieve the desired conditions more rapidly. Conversely, others commented that a much more cautious approach is needed to achieve the desired conditions.

Statement

An ecologically resilient landscape is less susceptible to uncharacteristic wildfire, is at lower risk from insects and disease infestations and epidemics, provides a full range of habitats for native terrestrial and aquatic species, protects water quality and abundance, provides a full range of uses, products and services, and is adaptable to changes in climate. The rate at which the landscape is restored to a resilient condition and the extent and type of management activities conducted will determine the amount of uses, products, and services the national forest is able to provide.

This issue will influence the development of alternatives that will be used to address the trade-offs between different methods and approaches, short-versus long-term risks, rates of progress towards desired conditions, and location of activities that would be used to maintain or restore ecological resiliency.

Key Indicators

(Key Indicators for miles of roads maintained or decommissioned are described under Issue 1; key indicators for uses, products and services are described under Issue 3) (all are projected)

- Acres of restoration vegetation treatment
 - Even-aged treatments
 - Uneven-aged treatments
 - Non-commercial thinning
 - Prescribed fire
 - Wildfire used to meet desired conditions
 - Invasive species
- Percent departure from desired stand structure
 - Acres of old forest (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
 - Other structures as needed
- Percent departure from desired species composition
 - Early seral species (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
 - Mid seral species (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
 - Late seral species (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
- Percent departure from desired stand density
 - Percent open canopy (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
 - Percent closed canopy (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
- Rangeland species composition rating (departure from potential natural)
- Acres of wildfire
 - Low severity (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
 - Mixed severity (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)

- High severity (cold, dry, moist vegetation types)
- Wildfire Risk
 - Acres of crowning index (CI) >40
 - Acres of torching index (TI) > 25
- Insect and Disease Risk Rating
- Riparian or watershed condition indicators (the following are being considered)
 - Road density
 - Riparian road density
 - Stream bank stability/erosion
 - Riparian species composition
 - Sediment, percent substrate fines
 - Stream miles meeting/not meeting water quality criteria
- Terrestrial and aquatic species viability ratings
- Acres of Management Indicator Species habitat

Issue 3: Economic and Social Well Being

Public Concern

Many people stressed the importance of economic and social contributions of the forests to the surrounding communities. One concern is the importance of maintaining the infrastructure in local communities (e.g., mills, roads, equipment and skilled labor force), so that the Forest Service could accomplish restoration goals as well as contribute to the economic and social well being of communities. Another concern is the potential effects of large disturbances such as insect and disease epidemics or wildfire on the economic and social well-being of local communities. Other people stressed ecological values and suggested that a more cautious approach and mix of restoration activities is necessary to protect those values and could also make a contribution to economic and social well being.

Statement

Forest plan decisions create the framework for the range of uses and products and services provided by the Blue Mountains national forests that contribute to the economic and social well being of local communities, counties, and tribes. The quantity of forest products and services provided by the forest contributes to the maintenance of local infrastructure. Infrastructure, in turn, plays a critical role in the capacity of national forests to conduct forest management activities. The forest plans will determine the mix of uses, products and services provided over time.

This issue will influence the development of alternatives that will be used to address different levels of uses, products and services provided by the Blue Mountains national forests and how those levels will affect the economic and social well being of people in the area.

Key Indicators (projected)

- Animal Unit Months (AUMs) authorized under term livestock grazing permits
- Allowable Sale Quantity (ASQ)
- Long-term sustainable yield (LTSY)
- Acres suitable for timber production

- Employment and income by sector (e.g., timber, recreation, and grazing – exact sectors TBD)
- Wood product outputs (MMBF and CCF)
- Payments to counties
- Present net value of timber
- Recreation use (TBD)

Issue 4: Old Forest

Public Concern

Many people suggested an active approach to reducing the risk of loss from insects, disease, and fire within old forest stands and to accelerate the development of old forest structure. Other people prefer the use of non-mechanical means to restore old forests or designation of old forest reserves where no management activities are allowed.

Statement

Old forests, also called old growth and mature forests, are unique components of a diverse vegetative community. They are important for their aesthetic qualities, wildlife habitat, carbon storage, fire resistance, ecological importance, and their value as commercial products. The Blue Mountains national forests have less old forest, especially in the dry, single-story, open canopy forest types, than what occurred historically.

The forest plan will determine how much old forest the Blue Mountains national forests should have in the future and how it should be managed to ensure the ecological, social and economic values it provides.

Key Indicators (projected)

- Acres of old forest

Issue 5: Preliminary Administrative Recommendation for Additions to the National Wilderness Preservation System

Public Concern

Many people asked that additional areas be proposed for wilderness designation to protect the values that they attach to wilderness areas. Others requested that no additional areas be proposed for wilderness designation because this would prevent them from participating in the activities that they currently enjoy within those areas. It would also restrict management activities that could provide economic benefits while reducing the risks of uncharacteristic fire and insect and disease epidemics.

Statement

Wilderness area designation is an allocation of land to a specific use. Recommendations are preliminary administrative recommendations that will receive further review and possible modifications by the Chief of the Forest Service, Secretary of Agriculture, and the President of the United States. Congress has reserved the authority to make final decisions on wilderness area designation. Wilderness area designation precludes the use of motorized and mechanized equipment and most management activities. Wilderness areas offer human visitors solitude, opportunities for challenge, risk, and primitive recreation. Natural processes, including disturbances and ecological succession, operate without human intervention. Plant and animal habitats are undisturbed by human uses.

This issue will influence the development of alternatives that will propose different levels of preliminary administratively recommended wilderness allocations and will address the tradeoffs inherent in land allocations that favor one type of use over another.

Key Indicators

- Acres preliminarily administratively recommended for wilderness area designation
- Percent of forest retained in undeveloped management allocations
- Qualitative indicators TDB

Significant Issues that Do Not Drive Alternative Development

Eligible Wild and Scenic Rivers

Many people expressed the desire to see more rivers determined to be eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. The determination of eligibility for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act is made through a process outlined in the FSH, 1909.12 Chapter 80. Rivers found to be eligible remain eligible until a suitability assessment is completed or another eligibility process is conducted. The determination of eligibility does not vary by alternative.

Grazing

Many people expressed concerns regarding domestic grazing of both cattle and sheep. Some people want to end grazing on the national forests altogether. Eliminating grazing is inconsistent with Forest Service policy. The forest plan sets desired conditions, suitable uses, and standards and guidelines for the national forest. If necessary, these may require a change in the terms and conditions of current and future term grazing permits. They will also be used in the site-specific allotment management plan analysis process, which, in turn, may affect the terms and conditions in the term grazing permits, including number of livestock permitted and seasons of use. Opening and closing allotments or changing allotment boundaries are site-specific decisions that are not being made in this forest planning process. The forest plan environmental impact statement will disclose the effects of grazing on other resources, but alternatives will not be designed around changes to the grazing program. Note - Bighorn sheep viability concerns may cause a change in the grazing issue and cause it to become an alternative driver.

Other Concerns

Climate Change

Some people do not agree with the focus on climate change in the proposed action. Forest Service policy is to consider the effects of climate change in forest plan revisions. In the proposed action, climate change is discussed as a management challenge. Also in the proposed action, there is a section titled “Consideration of Climate Change in Designing Desired Conditions.” Climate change is factored into the design of the ecological desired conditions. Potential impacts of climate change are possible, if not likely, to occur in all vegetation types, and have implications for all resource areas. The management focus for vegetation management in the Blue Mountains is mostly on the dry forest vegetation types because they have high potential for being impacted by changes in climate, and because they are the most highly altered from historic conditions. This focus on designing desired conditions to restore healthy, resilient forests in the face of climate change is present in all alternatives and is at the heart of potential measures

to adapt to future climate change. The Forest Service has not given direction at this time to measure carbon emissions or sequestration and those effects.

Energy Development

Some people expressed concerns about potential energy development on the forests. Wind energy development is of the highest concern. Wind energy development is considered a special use of the national forests. All special uses must be consistent with the plan components, including desired conditions for scenery, watershed function, species diversity, cultural resources, and water quality. Special use proposals must undergo site-specific analyses which will determine their consistency with the forest plan. A suitability determination for wind energy development could be added to the forest plans if the analysis in the EIS finds that it is needed.

A few people commented on the potential for oil and gas development on the national forests. Oil and gas leasing is not a forest plan decision. The potential for commercial oil and gas fields on the Blue Mountains national forests will be discussed in the EIS. If warranted, the forest plans could include suitability determinations for oil and gas leasing should the analysis find a high potential for development.

Wildlife Corridors

People expressed concern about the need to identify wildlife corridors in the forest plan. This concern is addressed in several different ways in the proposed action. Those areas where most types of active management are not suitable will provide varying levels of corridors. Riparian management areas also function as wildlife corridors for some species. The large variety of species and their different habitat needs makes it difficult to establish parameters for wildlife corridors for all species. Analysis of this issue will be included in the EIS, but it will not drive alternative development.

Non-Significant Issues

Non-significant issues are defined as those issues beyond the scope of the proposed action; outside the scope of the decision to be made; already decided by law, regulation, or policy; or conjectural in nature or not supported by scientific evidence. Many comments were placed in the non-significant issues category. They are listed here along with the reasons they will not be considered in forest plan revision.

Access for People with Disabilities

Many people commented that denial of motor vehicle access to people with disabilities violates the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The ADA defers to Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, which says that no person with a disability can be denied participation in a federal program available to all other people solely because of his or her disability. In conformance with section 504, wheelchairs or mobility devices are welcome on all National Forest System lands that are open to foot travel, and they are specifically exempted from definition as a motor vehicle in section 212.1 of the Travel Management Rule (36 CFR 212.1). There is no legal requirement to allow people with disabilities to use OHVs or other motor vehicles on roads, trails, and areas closed to motor vehicle use. Reasonable restrictions on motor vehicle use, applied consistently to everyone, are not discriminatory. This concern has been decided by law.

Budget

Many people commented that the objectives in forest plans should not be constrained by budget, but should rather state what is needed to achieve the desired conditions. They expressed fears that budget-constrained objectives will become a ceiling and will not clearly outline the restoration needs. It is not realistic or reasonable to ignore expected funding levels in the forest plan. Increases in budgets beyond expected levels could result in a faster rate of achievement of the desired conditions than those projected by alternative. Recent budget trends are essentially level or slightly declining and those trends are expected to continue into the foreseeable future. This is not a significant issue to be analyzed in the EIS since the forest plan does not influence or control the budget for the national forest.

Fees

The topic of fees for a variety of forest products and uses was raised by some people. Fees are an administrative decision and are outside the scope of a forest plan.

RS2477 Public Right of Way

Some people commented that some roads on the national forests are public roads under RS2477 and should be recognized as such. The Forest Service recognizes legally documented rights-of-way held by state, county, or other public authorities. This includes rights-of-way under Revised Statute (RS) 2477 that have been adjudicated through the federal court system or otherwise formally established, such as easements under the Federal Roads and Trails Acts (FRTA). The only means to conclusively establish the existence of a RS 2477 right-of-way across federal land is by obtaining a judgment from a federal court under the Quiet Title Act (28 U.S.C. section 2409a).

Since an assertion on national forest systems land is a claim of title against the federal government, an RS 2477 claim must be asserted by a state or county government that manages a public road system. Individuals who wish to pursue an RS 2477 claim must present their request to the local county government for consideration. The Forest Service may manage or agree to manage (in accordance with the local public road agency) any road declared under a validated claim consistent with a Forest Service approved travel plan. Management may include a range of options, including designation for highway legal or OHV use; changing the level, type, or season of use; or removing these routes from designation in the Forest Service approved travel plan. This would not preclude establishment of the route as a public right-of-way in the future if a court were to make a determination of validity. Due to the limited role of RS 2477 rights-of-way in the forest plan revision process, this issue does not involve discernable effects and is substantially outside the scope of this analysis.

Travel Management

Many people asked that the Travel Management Rule (TMR) be set aside or that the decisions being made outside of forest plans to designate roads, trails, or areas for motor vehicle use be modified. Some people would like the national forests to allow cross-country travel. The TMR (36 CFR 212) was put in place in 2005 and directed each national forest to designate roads, trails, or areas for motor vehicle use. The Umatilla National Forest has completed its designations. The Wallowa-Whitman National Forest is completing the necessary analysis and is expected to have a decision in place in 2011. The Malheur National Forest is beginning travel management planning and expects to have a decision in 2011. This designation of roads, trails, or areas for motor vehicle use is site-specific. The forest plan does not make the site-specific decisions required by

the TMR, and it cannot set the Rule aside or ignore it. The revised forest plans will provide the framework for future decisions to be made regarding the transportation system but will not make decisions that designate roads, trails, or areas for motor vehicle use.

Appendix A – Content Analysis Process

Content Analysis (CA) is the process that was used for the comment letters received during Scoping on the Proposed Action for Forest Plan Revision to document, analyze, and develop Topics of Concern and subsequently the Significant Issues, that were received on the Proposed Action. This is a systematic process of compiling and categorizing all public viewpoints and concerns submitted on a plan or project. Content analysis for scoping is intended to help the Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) identify the Significant Issues for Alternative Development in the DEIS, which will then be released for another comment period. The Topics of Concern were derived from the comment letters through the Content Analysis process and then the IDT developed the Significant Issues from the Topics of Concern. There is not a response to each of the Topics of Concern in this report because that is not part of the requirements for the scoping process, however the Significant Issues will be tracked through all the alternatives in the DEIS.

In the CA process, each comment letter is logged-in, assigned a unique number, read, coded, and summarized into Topics of Concern. This number allows analysts to link specific comments to the original comment letter. All commenters' names and addresses are entered into a project-specific database program, enabling creation of a complete list of all commenters.

The comments that are most helpful are those that are unique, substantially different, and are specifically related to the Proposed Action. In addition to capturing unique and substantially different comments, this report attempts to reflect the emotion and strength of public sentiment in order to represent the public's values and concerns as fairly as possible. Analysts read and code these comments in each letter using the coding structure (see Appendix B). Each comment is coded by subject and category, and then all coded comments are entered into a comment database with minor corrections made for clarity, grammar, and punctuation. When an individual raises multiple concerns within the same letter, each unique comment was numbered and tracked separately.

Once the unique and substantially different comments were coded and entered into the DB, concerns raised by different commenters on the same subject and with the same intent and issue were grouped and summarized into Issue statements that capture the essence of those like-concerns. It is important to keep in mind that even though the Issue statements attempt to capture the full range of public issues and concerns, they should be reviewed with the understanding that there is no limitation on who submits comments. Therefore, the comments received do not necessarily represent the sentiments of the public as a whole. This report attempts to provide fair representation of the wide range of views submitted. Every comment has the same value, whether expressed by many, or by one respondent. Analyzing comments is not a vote-counting process. The content analysis process we used ensured that every comment was read, analyzed, and considered.

Following is the systematic process used to analyze the comments:

Step 1: All comment letters were assigned a communication number to allow for tracking the unique comments within the letter to the Topics of Concern. Name and address information were entered into a database and these commenters were added to the project mailing list.

Step 2: Third-party content analysis specialists read each letter to ensure all unique and substantially different comments in the letters were coded, entered into a database, incorporated into Topics of Concern and Significant Issues, and subsequently addressed in the Alternatives in the DEIS.

Each unique and substantially different comment within a letter was assigned a comment number, subject code, and category code to enable grouping of similar comments for the report described in step 5. The coding structure and coding of each comment letter can be found in the project record. For example, a comment desiring more motorized loop trails to provide for a better recreational experience would be coded as:

- Comment Number: 1 (1st comment coded in the letter)
- Subject Code: REC (Recreation)
- Category Code: 29200 (Motorized Recreation Opportunities (loops etc.))

Step 3: Form letters were identified and filed in the project record. Regardless of the number of copies received or the number of signatures, one copy of each form letter (identified as the master form letter) was analyzed for unique and substantially different comments and that one letter followed step 2 of this process. The other letters were identified as being associated with this master form letter.

Step 4: Each of the more than 1,243 unique and substantive comments that were coded were entered into a database, verbatim.

Step 5: Reports were produced from the database that contained the coded comments and a report was generated that grouped similar comments. The third-party collaboration specialist then drafted Topics of Concern that summarized each group of like-comments. These Topics of Concern were reviewed by the IDT and the Significant Issues were developed that will be tracked throughout all the Alternatives in the DEIS.

Appendix B – Coding Structure

Listed below are the Subject and Category Codes that were used to sort the public comments received during scoping. A more detailed description of the coding, database, and comment letters can be found in the project record.

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
ACCESS & REC	Goal 2.3 – Recreation Background, Existing Condition, DC	ACC	100
	Goal 2.3 – Developed Recreation Background, EC & DC		101
	Goal 2.3 – Dispersed Recreation Background, EC & DC		102
	Goal 2.3 – Backcountry Recreation Background, EC & DC		103
	Goal 2.4 – Hunting and Fishing Background, EC & DC		104
	Goal 2.7 – Roads and Trails Access Background, EC & DC		105
	Objective 2.3 - Recreation		106
	Objective 2.7 – Roads and Trails Access		107
	S&Gs		108
	General Recreation Comments		109
	General Access Comments (i.e., Unauthorized routes etc.		110
	Wilderness General Comments - more wilderness		111
	Wilderness General Comments – have enough		112
	Snowmobile General Comments		113
	RS2477		114
	Road Closure General Comments		115
	Cross-country travel		116
Access for the Persons with Disabilities and/or Senior Citizens	117		
AIR QUALITY	Goal 1.9 - Air Quality Background, EC & DC	AIR	130
	Objective 1.9 – Air Quality		131
	S&Gs		132
ALTERNATIVES	Alternatives	ALT	140
BEST AVAILABLE SCIENCE	Best Available Science – Use of best science, adequacy of analysis, adaptive management	BAS	150
CLIMATE CHANGE	Climate Change	CC	160
COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT	Availability of Information and Adequacy	CCI	170
	Collaboration		171
	Comment Period		172
	Communication		173
	Coordination with other Agencies and Local Government		174
	Education		175
	Public Involvement		176
CULTURAL RESOURCES	Goal 2.6 – Cultural Resources Background, EC & DC	CR	180
	Objective – Cultural Resources		181
	S&G - Cultural Resources (G-50 through G-56)		182

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
ENERGY	Energy Development	ENGY	190
FACILITIES	Goal 3.1 – Facilities and Infrastructure Background, EC & DC	FAC	200
	Objectives		201
	S&Gs		202
FIRE	Goal 1.4.1– Wildland Fire Disturbance Processes Background, EC, DC	FIRE	220
	Goal 2.8 – Wildland Urban Interface Background, EC & DC		221
	Objective 1.4.1 – Wildland Fire		222
	Objective 2.8 – Wildland Urban Interface		223
	S&G - Wildland Fire (S-8, G-27, G-28)		224
	General Fire Comments		225
FOREST PRODUCTS	Goal 3.3.1 – Forest Products Background, EC & DC	FP	240
	Objective 3.3 – Forest Products		241
	S&Gs		242
GRAZING	Goal 3.3.2 – Livestock Grazing Background, EC & DC	GRZ	260
	Objective 3.3 - Grazing		261
	S&G - Range Management and Grazing (G-43 through G-48)		262
INSECTS & DISEASE	Goal 1.4.2 - Insects and Disease Disturbance Processes Background, EC & DC	INSD	270
	Objective 1.4.2 – Insects and Disease		271
	S&Gs		272
LAND & SPECIAL USES	Goal 3.2 – Land Ownership Background, EC & DC	LAND	290
	Objectives		291
	S&Gs		292
MA1A – Designated Wilderness	Description	MGA	300
	Desired Condition		301
	Malheur Areas		302
	Umatilla Areas		303
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas		304
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		305
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		306
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		307
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		308
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		309
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		310
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		311
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		312
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		313
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		314
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		315
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		316
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		317

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	Standards and Guidelines (S-18 through S-28, G-61 through G-70, S-29)		318
	Other		319
MA1b – Recommended Wilderness	Description	MGA	320
	Desired Condition		321
	Malheur Areas		322
MA1b – Recommended Wilderness	Umatilla Areas	MGA	323
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas		324
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		325
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		326
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		327
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		328
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		329
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		330
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		331
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		332
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		333
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		334
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		335
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		336
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		337
	General PWA (IRA)		338
	Standards and Guidelines (G-71)		340
Other	341		
MA1C – Wilderness Study Area	Description	MGA	342
	Desired Condition		343
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas		344
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		345
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		346
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		347
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		348
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		349
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		350
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		351
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		352
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		353
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		354
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		355
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		356
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		357
	Standards and Guidelines (G-71)		358
Other	359		

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE		
MA2A – Designated and Eligible W&SRs	Description	MGA	360		
	Desired Condition		361		
	Malheur Areas		362		
	Umatilla Areas		363		
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas		364		
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		365		
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		366		
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		367		
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		368		
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		369		
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		370		
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		371		
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		372		
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		373		
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		374		
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		375		
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		376		
	MA2A – Designated and Eligible W&SRs		Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)	MGA	377
Standards and Guidelines (G-72 through G-78, S-30 through S-38)		378			
Other		379			
MA2B – Research Natural Areas		Description	MGA		380
		Desired Condition			381
		Malheur Areas			382
	Umatilla Areas	383			
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas	384			
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production	385			
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest	386			
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products	387			
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products	388			
	Suitable Uses – Grazing	389			
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)	390			
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)	391			
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)	392			
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)	393			
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction	394			
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction	395			
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment	396			
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)	397			
	Standards and Guidelines (G-79 through G-90)	398			
	Other	399			
MA2C – Botanical Areas	Description	MGA	400		
	Desired Condition		401		

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	Malheur Areas		402
	Umatilla Areas		403
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		404
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		405
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		406
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		407
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		408
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		409
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		410
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		411
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		412
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		413
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		414
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		415
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		416
	Standards and Guidelines (G-91 through G-100)		417
	Other		418
	MA2D – Geological Areas		Description
Desired Condition		420	
Malheur Areas		421	
Umatilla Areas		422	
Suitable Uses – Timber Production		423	
Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		424	
Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		425	
Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		426	
Suitable Uses – Grazing		427	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		428	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		429	
Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		430	
Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		431	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		432	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		433	
Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		434	
Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		435	
Standards and Guidelines		436	
Other	437		
MA2E – Historical Areas	Description	MGA	438
	Desired Condition		439
	Malheur Areas		440
	Umatilla Areas		441
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		442
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		443
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest		444

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	Products		
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		445
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		446
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		447
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		448
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		449
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		450
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		451
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		452
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		453
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		454
	Standards and Guidelines		455
	Other		456
	MA2F – Scenic Byways & All-American Roads		Description
Desired Condition		458	
Malheur Areas		459	
Umatilla Areas		460	
Wallowa-Whitman Areas		461	
Suitable Uses – Timber Production		462	
Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		463	
Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		464	
Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		465	
Suitable Uses – Grazing		466	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		467	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		468	
Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		469	
Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		470	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		471	
Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		472	
Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		473	
Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		474	
Standards and Guidelines	475		
Other	476		
MA2G – Nationally Designated Trails	Description	MGA	477
	Desired Condition		478
	Malheur Areas		479
	Umatilla Areas		480
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas		481
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		482
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		483
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		484
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		485
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		486

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		487
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		488
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		489
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		490
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		491
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		492
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		493
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		494
	Standards and Guidelines		495
	Other		496
MA2H – Scenic Areas	Description	MGA	497
	Desired Condition		498
	Malheur Areas		499
	Umatilla Areas		500
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		501
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		502
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of SFP		503
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		504
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		505
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		506
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		507
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		508
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		509
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		510
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		511
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		512
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		513
	Standards and Guidelines		514
Other	515		
MA2I – Starkey Experimental Forest & Range	Description	MGA	516
	Desired Condition		517
	Which forest? Areas		518
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		519
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		520
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		521
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		522
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		523
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		524
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		525
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		526
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		527
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		528
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		529

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		530
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		531
	Standards and Guidelines		532
	Other		533
MA2J – Municipal Watersheds	Description	MGA	534
	Desired Condition		535
	Malheur Areas		536
	Umatilla Areas		537
	Wallowa-Whitman Areas		538
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		539
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		540
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		541
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		542
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		543
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		544
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		545
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		546
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		547
MA2J – Municipal Watersheds	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction	MGA	548
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		549
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		550
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		551
	Standards and Guidelines (S-39, S-40)		552
	Other		553
MA2K – Riparian Management Areas	Description	MGA	554
	Desired Condition		555
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		556
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		557
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		558
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		559
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		560
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		561
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		562
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		563
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		564
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		565
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		566
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		567
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		568
Standards and Guidelines (G-101 through G-131, S-41 through S-57)	569		
	Other		570

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
MA3A – Non-motorized Undeveloped	Description	MGA	571
	Desired Condition		572
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		573
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		574
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		575
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		576
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		577
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		578
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		579
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		580
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		581
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		582
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		583
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		584
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		585
	Standards and Guidelines (S-58, S-59)		586
Other	587		
MA3B – Limited Motorized Undeveloped	Description	MGA	588
	Desired Condition		589
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		590
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		591
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		592
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		593
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		594
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		595
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		596
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		597
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		598
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		599
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		600
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		601
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		602
	Standards and Guidelines		603
MA4 – General Forest	Description	MGA	605
	Desired Condition		606
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		607
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		608
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		609
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		610

SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		611
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		612
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		613
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		614
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		615
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		616
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		617
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		618
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		619
	Standards and Guidelines		620
	Other		621
MA5 – Developed Sites and Admin. Areas	Description	MGA	622
	Desired Condition		623
	Suitable Uses – Timber Production		624
	Suitable Uses – Timber Harvest		625
	Suitable Uses – Commercial Use of Special Forest Products		626
	Suitable Uses – Personal Use of Special Forest Products		627
	Suitable Uses – Grazing		628
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (summer)		629
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Use (winter)		630
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (summer)		631
	Suitable Uses – Non-motorized use (winter)		632
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Road Construction		633
	Suitable Uses – Motorized Trail Construction		634
	Suitable Uses – Mechanical Fuel Treatment		635
	Changes to Allocations (from>> to) (i.e., change from MA1A to 1E)		636
	Standards and Guidelines		637
Other	638		
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	Objective 3.3 – Mineral and Geological Resources		661
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SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
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	Management of NFS Lands – Multiple Use		685
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	References (Literature Citations)		690
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SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
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	Goal 1.7 – Plant Species Composition Background, EC & DC		803
	Goal 1.8 – Stand Density Background, EC & DC		804
	Goal 1.12 – Landscape Patterns Background, EC & DC		805
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	Objective 1.8 – Stand Density		811
	Objective 1.12 – Landscape Patterns		812
	Objective 1.14 – Snags and Down Wood		813
	Objective 2.2 – Old Forest (Old Growth)		814
	S&G - Invasive Species (S-9, G-29, S-10, G-30 through G-36)		815
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	Goals 19 - 26 Plant Species (federally listed and species at risk)		817
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WATERSHEDS, RIPARIAN & AQUATIC SPECIES	Goal 1.1.1 – Hydrologic Function Background, EC & DC	WATS	851
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SUBJECT	CATEGORY and DEFINITION/DESCRIPTION	SUB CODE	CAT CODE
	& DC		
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	Objective 2.5 – Rocky Mountain Elk		904
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	Black-backed woodpecker and boreal owl (G-4, G-5, G-6)		908
	Fringed myotis and Townsend’s big-eared bat (G-7)		909
	Lewis’s woodpecker (S-5, G-8)		910
	Northern goshawk (G-9, G-10)		911
	Pileated woodpecker (G-11)		912
	White-headed woodpecker (S-6, S-7)		913
	Fox sparrow (G-12)		914
	Cassin’s finch (G-13)		915
	Water vole (G-14, G-15)		916
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			920
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Appendix C - Demographics

Introduction

Demographic analysis presents an overall picture of respondents: where they live, their general affiliation to various organizations or government agencies, and the manner in which they respond. The database that was used contains public comments organized by subject and then category (see Appendix B) and demographic information. This kind of database can be used to show public comment from certain geographic locations or show comments associated with certain types of organizations. Thus demographic coding, combined with comment coding, allows managers to use the database to focus on specific areas of public concern linked to geographic area, organizational affiliation, and response format.

The total number of scoping replies includes 110 unique and substantially different comment letters and 4,025 organized form letters for a total of 4,174 total replies. It is important to recognize that the consideration of public comment is not a vote-counting process in which the outcome is determined by the majority opinion. Relative depth of feeling and interest among the public can serve to provide a general context for decisionmaking. However, it is the uniqueness, appropriateness, and factual accuracy of comment content that serves to provide the basis for modifications to planning documents and decisions. Further, because commenters are self-selected, they do not constitute a random or representative public sample. Therefore, caution should be used when interpreting the numbers provided in this report. While demographic information can provide insight into the perspectives and values of commenters, it does not necessarily reveal the desires of society as a whole. All input is considered and the analysis team attempts to capture all relevant public concerns in the analysis process.

The following demographic analysis is based on the total responses.

Geographic Representation

Geographic representation is tracked for each commenter. The Table below displays the number of commenters by State.

State	Number of Commenters
California	1
Idaho	5
Maryland	1
Montana	2
Oregon	119
Vermont	1
Washington	16
District of Columbia	1
Unknown	3
Total	149

Organizational Affiliation

Organizational affiliation is tracked for each comment letter. The Table below displays, by organization type, the number of responses and signatures.

Organization Type	Number of Commenters	Number of Signatures
Business	18	19
City Agency	1	1
County Agency	2	2
Elected Official	1	3
Federal Agency	3	3
Group or Organization	33	3,777
Individual	87	414
State Agency	4	4
Total	149	4,223

Reply Type

The Table below displays, by comment letter format, the number of commenters and signatures.

Reply Type	Number of Replies	Number of Signatures
Letter	64	107
Form Letter/Email	4,032	4,035
Comment Form	9	9
Email	69	72
Total	4,174	4,223

Delivery Type

As shown in the Table below, each comment letter is also tracked by how the letter was received during the comment period on the project and the number of signatures.

Delivery Type	Number of Replies	Number of Signatures
Postal	357	360
Email	3,817	3,863
Total	4,174	4,223

Form Letters

Form letters, which are considered organized group campaign, represent 96 percent of the total letters received during the public comment period for scoping (4,032 form letters out of 4,174 total letters).

Forms are defined as five or more responses, received separately, but containing identical text. Once a form is identified, a “form master” is entered into the database with all of the content information. All responses with matching text are then linked to this master form. Duplicate responses from four or fewer respondents are entered as individual letters. Forms are designated with a number for the purpose of tracking subsequent submissions. Form numbers are assigned as each “form master” is identified. Four form letters were received during scoping and the contents of the form letters are listed below:

Form 1: 518 Comment Letters Received via Email

As someone who cares deeply about the conservation of Oregon's natural treasures, I write to you with serious concerns regarding the direction of the Blue Mountains Forest Plan Revision. The plan is critically important as it will determine the management strategy for gems like the

scenic Grande Ronde River and the headwaters to the longest undammed river in Oregon, the John Day.

In particular I'm very concerned with your decision to press forward with a flawed inventory for potential wilderness, recommended wilderness, and eligible wild and scenic rivers. Nowhere is the plan more deficient than in the "recommended Wilderness" category. The Forest Service is recommending only 1% of the potential wilderness areas be protected. The draft plan is heavily skewed to minimize the potential for future Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers and should therefore be put on hold until the inventories have been completed objectively.

Form 2: 262 Comment Letters Received vial Postal Mail

*City of Halfway
PO Box 735
Halfway OR 97834*

Re: Legislation Bill "Oregon Eastside Forest Restoration, Old Growth Protection and Jobs Act 2009"

Hello I am a member of the community that falls in the area of the Wallowa Whitman Forest. As a member of this area I have concerns about the proposed plan to add on new wilderness areas. Looking at the map of the proposed action, it looks as if you want to include what we call Tabletop and Sugarloaf, these areas must not be added into the proposed plan as they are areas that will impact our economy in a negative way. On the map that shows the proposed action areas it is marked 'IB' this area will impact Baker County's economy in a negative way.

Eastern Oregon is made up of smaller cities and towns unlike the west side of Oregon. Baker County is part of Eastern Oregon and our main industry is tourism and recreation. Our Economy needs both tourism and recreation in order to survive.

Baker County's unemployment rate as of Feb. 2010 was 9.0%. This figure will grow larger if you add on more wilderness areas in the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. The communities that surround this forest area will be impacted to the point of having to lay off more people. Without the use all our mountainous areas we will lose recreational tourism thus forcing more layoffs and raising the unemployment rates in this area to an all time high.

The Small Town of Halfway Oregon will be impacted the most by adding 'IB' on the map to wilderness area, this community's main source of income is recreation and tourism. We fear that if this proposal takes place than this small town will be nothing more than a ghost town leaving people in the stores, restaurants, motel, lodging, and recreational guide services out of work. If these businesses close then people will have to relocate which will hurt our school.

As members of Baker County and Halfway Oregon we urge you to stop the proposed plan to add on 'I B' of the map to wilderness area. Our Communities cannot take the impact economically.

See Map on back side for Area we don't want changed.

Form 3: 3,197 Comment letters Received via Email

The Blue Mountains' National Forests are truly national treasures containing valuable wildlife habitat (over 250 native species including nationally renowned herds of big horn sheep and elk),

incredible biological diversity (including the world's largest living organism), spectacular scenic views and recreation opportunities, and watersheds providing clean water for national forest and downstream uses for communities, agriculture and recreational uses.

Clean water is essential for people and wildlife in arid eastern Washington and Oregon. Climate change is likely to alter flow patterns, and reduce available water for the dry summer drought season. Managing and protecting Blue Mountain forests to increase their resiliency as climate change impacts occur is critical, and I strongly support updating the forest plans to incorporate management strategies addressing climate change.

The proposed plan states that water quality standards are not being met for more than 1,200 miles of streams in Oregon and Washington and that are found in every major drainage in the Blue Mountains. The Forest Service must adopt aggressive strategies for improving water quality in these stream segments. As important is preserving high quality aquatic habitats in order to prevent at risk species of fish from going extinct. Important tools for protecting water quality and other key values of National Forest land are recommending areas for Wild and Scenic designation for rivers and streams, and for Wilderness designation for larger landscapes.

The Blue Mountain forest plans have not done an adequate inventory, or assessment of potential Wilderness and Wild and Scenic River additions. The Forest Service decided, through their forest planning process, to recommend only 16,350 acres of the Blue Mountains as Wilderness, despite their own surveys that tell them they have nearly one million acres of unprotected Wilderness-quality lands -- and a more detailed survey by conservationists that shows 1.8 million acres available! Just as alarming is the Malheur National Forest's insistence that zero rivers having "outstandingly remarkable values" that would qualify them for Wild and Scenic status, a designation would forever protect them from development and hydroelectric projects.

A credible understanding and inventory of our Nation's land values is important for the Forest Service to make wise stewardship decisions for the next 15 years for the Blue Mountains forests. The existing assessment and recommendations does not appear plausible or credible. Please re-evaluate and assess both the Wilderness and Wild and Scenic values of these lands. I urge you to increase your recommendations for Wilderness and for Wild and Scenic River designations for those deserving landscapes and river stretches.

Form 4: 55 Comment Letters Received via Postal Mail

In response to the Blue Mtn Forest Plan Revision I would like to make the following suggestions. Do not recommend areas 3, 4, 5, and 6 to be additional proposed wilderness on the south side of the Strawberry Wilderness. Those areas are used heavily as recreation areas winter and summer. There is no advantage to the forest to add these areas as wilderness and keep out the general public.

The 1640 Road to High Lake Overlook is a major draw for tourism for Grant County.

The 4 area is very important to leave as it is now for safety reasons in the winter as it is unsafe to follow the road to the overlook due to snowdrifts.

By making areas 3, 4, 5 and 6 into wilderness you are really hurting the general tax payers that enjoy our National Forest.

Also to recommend that all 3B areas (limited motorized undeveloped) be left as is. Do not change these uses as they are working fine.

Appendix D – List of Preparers

This list includes the names of the individuals who contributed toward the completion of the analysis of public comments for the Scoping phase of the Forest Plan Revision process.

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