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Following are my comments on the proposed Western Oregon Plan Revisions:

1. Adaptive Management Areas (AMA's) are leading the way to better forestry management practices. In the Applegate, the AMA is a success story, with new small companies performing environmentally sound forest management. New techniques for thinning to enhance both fire safety and habitat are being developed. This creates a healthier, more productive forest while providing a more stable type of employment than the boom and bust cycle of cutting the big timber. We are beginning to learn how to utilize the smaller diameter and non-timber products that these forests can sustainably produce. Learning to work with the forest is a long term commitment. Applegate residents have made that commitment, investing time and money, and to pull the plug on the Applegate AMA would be a betrayal of those working for a better forestry under the Northwest Forest Plan. The Applegate AMA was a good idea and it is working as intended. Please maintain the Applegate Adaptive Management Area

2. The Medford District, and particularly the Applegate valley, is not the place to encourage OHV use. Applegate soils are granitic. They erode easily, muddy the creeks and become landing places for invasive species. The Siskiyou area has outstanding biodiversity on these fragile soils. OHV use is not compatible with many other aspects of the forest. OHV riders should have adequate places to ride, but this is the wrong place to encourage this use. There is far too much acreage proposed for OHV playgrounds.

3. Climate Change should be considered in the development of any modification of the NW Forest Plan. The WOPR proposals impact a lot of land, a lot of carbon, a lot of stream erosion potential, a lot of habitat. Habitat will be lost just at the time we are learning climate change will likely substantially impact hundreds of species. For many of them, the ability to migrate may be the only choice other than extinction. These B.L.M. forests are a key part of the migration corridors. With what is now known, and the impact the WOPR will have, it is foolish to ignore climate change in evaluating forest policy.

The Northwest Forest Plan, as written and currently being implemented, is better than any of the WOPR alternatives.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Spero

