

# Sprouts

New plans for the Mt. Hood National Forest

## Watershed Restoration 2001 Environmental Assessment

The Mt. Hood National Forest is conducting a forest wide analysis of watershed restoration opportunities. In 1994, the Northwest Forest Plan recognized the need for watershed restoration. "Watershed restoration will be an integral part of a program to aid recovery of fish habitat and riparian habitat, and water quality." The Mt. Hood National Forest (Forest) has accomplished many restoration projects in the past few years including road obliteration, culvert replacement for improved fish passage, in-stream projects to create pools, riparian planting, etc.

The watershed analyses that have been completed, recommended these restoration actions and many others that have not yet been planned, funded or implemented.

Approximately 30 watershed analyses have been completed across the Forest, yet no concerted effort was made to consolidate this information into a Forest wide analysis. Since the Forest receives a limited amount of funding for fisheries and water quality restoration projects each year, it became apparent that a Forest-wide analysis would greatly facilitate prioritization.

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A computer model has been developed to assist in the prioritization of watersheds and projects. This model incorporates many factors including watershed sensitivity, management intensity and biological indicators. It is being used to examine watershed restoration opportunities to ensure that limited funding is used to accomplish projects that provide the most benefit to fisheries and water quality.

- **Fish Passage Projects** – Includes culvert replacements so that fish can get through to access habitat on the other side.
- **Ditch and Irrigation Enhancements** – Includes piping water to reduce seepage losses and better fish screens. Results in more water in streams and fish remaining in streams.
- **Fencing** – Includes fencing of meadows and sensitive areas to control the movement of livestock.
- **Rock Quarry Restoration** – Includes the addition of soil, reestablishment of natural drainage patterns and revegetation.
- **Riparian Restoration** – Includes blocking areas where unauthorized vehicles are damaging streamside zones and other sensitive areas.
- **In-stream and Riparian Enhancement** – Includes the addition of logs or boulders into streams to create pools and improve diversity. Includes riparian area planting and side channel enhancement.

The objective is to have healthy functioning watersheds that provide clean water and sustain quality fisheries. Another objective is to provide a safe transportation system that meets fish and water quality objectives while providing access to the forest. It is recognized that it may take many years of active restoration and many years of “healing time” to totally restore these resources. The project types described below are one step in the process of moving toward the desired conditions.

- **Erosion Prevention** – Includes the restoration of old skid trails by deep ripping, water barring and revegetating; includes the storm proofing of some roads by the installation of drivable water bars; and includes the closure of some roads to vehicular traffic by the installation of berms or other structures.
- **Road Stabilization** – Includes deep patch repairs of cracking and sinking roadways, resurfacing and erosion control. These are main roads that access large areas of the Forest including campgrounds and trail-heads.
- **Road Decommissioning** – Includes the removal of gravel and culverts and deep ripping, water barring, and revegetating. These are primarily short roads that are not likely to be needed for forest management for many years.

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment on these projects, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27 (d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency’s decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within a specified time frame.

# Projects for Summer 2001

**40/60** – Project may create opening(s) larger than the 40 or 60 acre limitations stipulated by the National Forest Management Act, 36 CFR 219.27. Such creation requires 60 day public notification and approval of the Regional Forester.

**CCF** – 100 cubic feet

**CE** – Categorical Exclusion

**EA** – Environmental Assessment

**EIS** – Environmental Impact Statement

**MBF** – 1,000 board feet

**MMBF** – 1,000,000 board feet

**NEPA** – National Environmental Policy Act

**VEG** – This symbol indicates a project that may include treatment of unwanted vegetation. When a site-specific project to prevent or treat unwanted vegetation is being considered, the official responsible for that project is to notify the public.

## Forest Wide

### **Watershed Restoration 2001 Environmental Assessment**

*Contact: Jim Roden*

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*Email: [jroden@fs.fed.us](mailto:jroden@fs.fed.us)*

In previous issues of *Sprouts* we described a project called Watershed Restoration 2001. The Mt. Hood National Forest is conducting a forest wide analysis of watershed restoration opportunities.

At this time we are close to having a completed environmental assessment. Some of the projects qualify for categorical exclusion; a decision memo will be issued for these. The remaining projects would be included in a decision notice. The environmental assessment will be available for a 30-day comment period by mid to late summer.

If you would like a copy of the environmental assessment or other documents, please contact Jim Roden, Clackamas River Ranger District.

## Barlow Ranger District

### **Snowmobile Trail Groomer and Snow Cat Shelter**

*Contact: Dennis Beechler*

*Phone: (541) 328-6211*

*Email: [dbeechler@fs.fed.us](mailto:dbeechler@fs.fed.us)*

The District proposes to issue a 5 year Special Use permit (use code 522) to the Mt. Hood Snowmobile Club for an area 1 acre in size to construct a 32' x 60' storage building. This old landing is approximately 100 yards east of Skyline Sno-park. The building will be constructed of wood with a poured cement floor and brown steel roof. The building will house a snow cat, trail groomer, and a 2000 gallon diesel storage tank. A 6-foot high chain link security fence may also be erected around the building if additional security is needed. The Mt Hood Snowmobile Club will be responsible for all maintenance.

## **Clackamas River Ranger District**

### **Arrah Wanna/Salmon River Project**

T3S, R7E, Sections 4,5 and 6;  
Salmon River Watershed, Clackamas  
County, Oregon.

Contact: *Jim Roden*

Phone: (503) 630-8722

Email: [jroden@fs.fed.us](mailto:jroden@fs.fed.us)

- **Project Description for Side channel:** Project objective is to improve fish spawning and rearing habitat to the one half mile Arrah Wanna side channel. This channel flows into the Salmon River and historically had large numbers of anadromous and resident fish spawning and rearing yearly. Natural channel alignment has been altered leaving the side channel perched above the natural Salmon River elevation. The project goal is to get year round flow into the channel by creating a vertical infiltration gallery, recontour the artificial pond into a natural wetland area and improve in-channel rearing and spawning conditions with additions of logs and boulders.
- **Project Description for Salmon River:** In addition to creating a vertical infiltration gallery at the junction of the Salmon River and the Arrah Wanna channel, other work is needed in the river nearby. The Salmon River, directly adjacent to the Resort at the Mountain Golf Course is continuing to laterally migrate. This is causing adverse effects including sediment inputs from the eroding stream bank. Approximately 100' to 140' of riparian vegetation has been lost and a buried domestic sewer line is being threatened. If the river continues to laterally migrate and erode this bank, failure of the sewer line is imminent. The proposed action is to add large boulders to direct the energy of the river toward the middle of the chan-

nel and away from the stream bank.

- **Potential Partners:** Arrah Wanna Homeowners Assoc.; Resort at the Mountain; Wolf-tree, Inc.; US Fish and Wildlife Service; Clackamas Co.; Oregon Dept. Fish and Wildlife; Trout Unlimited; and Sandy River Basin Watershed Council.

### **Cold Springs Restoration**

T4S, R5E, Section 22; North Fork of the Clackamas watershed,  
Clackamas County, Oregon.

Contact: *Gwen Collier*

Phone: (503) 630-6861

Email: [gcollier@fs.fed.us](mailto:gcollier@fs.fed.us)

Unauthorized vehicles are driving off roads and damaging soils, trees, and riparian areas. The project would involve rehabilitation of damaged areas adjacent to Forest Road 4610. Work would involve closing the area with a guardrail, boulders and debris, draining and filling a mudhole, breaking up compaction with either a subsoiler or excavator, seeding with a grass mix and planting seedlings. Analysis and a decision are expected in the summer of 2001, with project work to be done in spring/summer 2002.

### **Hillockburn Restoration**

South Fork of the Clackamas Watershed, Clackamas County, Oregon.

Contact: *Gwen Collier*

Phone: (503) 630-6861

Email: [gcollier@fs.fed.us](mailto:gcollier@fs.fed.us)

Unauthorized vehicles are driving off roads and damaging soils, trees, and riparian areas.

The project would involve rehabilitation of damaged areas adjacent to Forest Road 45. Work would include blocking access with a guardrail, boulders and debris, draining and filling mudholes, breaking up compaction with either a subsoiler or excavator, establishing a ground cover, and redefining the road prism by re-establishing the ditchline and reshaping the roadbed. Analysis and a decision are expected in the summer of 2001, with project work to be done in spring/summer 2002.

### **Clackamas River Commercial Guide Management Plan**

Contact: *Glenda Woodcock*

Phone: (503) 630-8724

Email: [gwoodcock@fs.fed.us](mailto:gwoodcock@fs.fed.us)

The Clackamas River is used by many for whitewater recreation. The Clackamas Wild and Scenic River plan (1993) set up a process for monitoring use and then establishing limits for commercial outfitter and guide services. Data has been collected and an environmental analysis is being conducted to weigh options for commercial use levels. A public meeting will be held in the fall of 2001 to present data and alternatives and to seek additional public input.

### **Precommercial Thinning**

Contact: *Thomas Rottman*

Phone: (503) 630-8804

Email: [trottman@fs.fed.us](mailto:trottman@fs.fed.us)

Precommercial thinning will promote species diversity, improve stand health and vigor, diameter growth, crown vigor, wind firmness and resistance to disease by removing over stocked, unhealthy, slow growing conifers. This project would precommercial thin approximately 7,500 acres of young conifer plantations over three years, from 2002 to 2004. We anticipate a decision in late summer 2001.

## **Hood River Ranger District**

### **Remote Weather Sensing Station and Sky Cam – Hwy 26**

Contact: Doug Jones

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: [dgjones@fs.fed.us](mailto:dgjones@fs.fed.us)

The Hood River Ranger District has received a proposal from Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to build a remote weather station and road cam along Highway 26 at Blue Box Pass. The instruments would monitor weather and road conditions at the 4025 ft. pass. The camera would provide still photos of the highway every 10-15 minutes and be posted on the ODOT Road Cam website like many other cameras within the state.

The site would be built at the top of a road cut on an old road that also carries an existing buried fiber optic line. The location chosen is above the line of sight of the casual observer driving along the highway. The facilities would further be painted black to lessen the visual effects in the scenic highway corridor. ODOT proposes erecting the facility in summer 2001. If you have comments or questions, please contact Doug Jones. Comments will be welcome until July 15, 2001.

### **Bear Knoll Planning Area**

T.4S., R.9E., Sections 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36

T.5S., R.9E., Sections 2, 3, 4, 10

Contact: Tamara Shannon

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: [tshannon@fs.fed.us](mailto:tshannon@fs.fed.us)

The Bear Knoll Planning Area is approximately 3570 acres and is located in the White River watershed, northeast of Highway 26, northwest of forest road 43 and south of forest road 2610. This planning effort proposes to thin overstocked mature and immature stands through commercial timber sales and sale of special forest products (posts, poles and firewood). Over-mature stands, especially those heavily infected with Indian Paint Fungus (*Echinodontium tinctorium*), are proposed to be regenerated. Commercial thinning and restoration projects in the riparian reserve area of Frog Creek and its tributaries is proposed, as well as visual enhancement projects along Highway 26 to set up the corridor to meet visual quality objectives for the long term. Overstory removal of off-site ponderosa pine in an artificially regenerated plantation is proposed. Temporary road construction, road reconstruction, road closure and decommissioning are also proposed activities. The Hood River Ranger District has completed Northwest Forest Plan Survey and Manage Species Surveys and is modifying the proposed action in response to the results of the survey and current direction. A field trip of the planning area is tentatively scheduled for July 30th. Call the district office if you are interested in attending. A decision is expected in 2001.

### **Clear Planning Area**

T1S, R9E, Sections

23,24,26,27,28,29,31,32,33,34,35,36

T2S, R9E, Sections 1,2

T2S, R10E, Section 6

Contact: Rick Ragan/

Bruce Holmson

Phone: (541) 352-6002,

ext. 622/621

Email: [rragan@fs.fed.us](mailto:rragan@fs.fed.us) or

[bholmson@fs.fed.us](mailto:bholmson@fs.fed.us)

The Clear Planning Area is approximately 5800 acres and is located south of Laurance Lake, in Hood River County. This study is primarily focusing on projects designed to maintain, improve, rehabilitate and/or restore the overall health and function of the area. Particular emphasis will be made towards improving or restoring tree vigor and species diversity through a combination of timber harvest techniques (commercial thinning and regeneration). The proposed action involves commercially thinning approximately 398 acres, regeneration harvest of approximately 40 acres, and partial harvest of the overstory/precommercial thinning the understory on approximately 21 acres. The proposed action also includes plans to construct, reconstruct, and close roads within the planning area. Other resource projects include the construction of approximately 5.5 miles of new trails, a trailhead, and a stockpile of boulders for future resource projects. Currently the Ranger District is in the process of finishing the botanical surveys. A decision is expected in 2002 or 2003.

## Mill Creek Planning Area

T1S, R10E, Sections

1,2,11,12,13,14

T1S, R11E, Sections 4,5,6,7,8,9,18

Contact: Rich Thurman/

Bruce Holmson

Phone: (541) 352-6002,

ext. 628/621

The Mill Creek Planning area is approximately 7200 acres and is located approximately 5 miles southeast of the community of Mt. Hood. After extensive field work in 1999/2000, a purpose/need and proposed action has been developed. Specialists concerns are:

- The condition of the forest communities/trees due to the lack of fire over the past 100 years,
- The invasion of non-native plant species, and
- The high level of roading and hence wildlife harassment and poaching, and 4) The aquatic habitat degradation due to roads and grazing operations.

The purpose/need and proposed action will be available for public comment this summer. Surveys for terrestrial mollusk and larch mountain salamander have been completed. A decision is expected in the summer of 2002.

## Zigzag Ranger District

### Clackamas Lake Historic Ranger Station Improvements and Building Restoration

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: 503-622-3191, ext. 668

Email: [pnorman@fs.fed.us](mailto:pnorman@fs.fed.us)

The district is planning 3 different projects at the Clackamas Lake Historic Ranger Station site. They are:

- **Rebuilding of a historic cabin destroyed by fire May 26, 2001.** A faulty propane refrigerator caused the fire. The plan is to rebuild the cabin so its exterior appears as it was prior to the fire but with a more modern interior that will meet current building code standards.
- **Upgrading of the current septic system.** This proposal will construct a new septic drainfield at the site that will meet all state and county health codes. The new drainfield will replace three existing drainfields that do not meet current codes.
- **Construction of a new shower/restroom building** that will allow use of the ranger station site by groups for meetings, classes, etc. Existing facilities are inadequate to allow use of the site by groups. If groups were allowed to use the site, the fees generated by that use would then be available to pay for maintenance of the buildings at the site. Currently, maintenance funds are inadequate to pay for needed maintenance of the facility.

## Mt. Hood Ski Bowl

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: [pmkoehler@fs.fed.us](mailto:pmkoehler@fs.fed.us)

- **Tube Hill Expansion and Master Plan Amendment:** The ski area is proposing to expand their tubing operations currently located on private lands to an area to the south-east of Multorpor Lodge. The expansion involves approximately 1/3 acre at the toe of the Rhododendron Ski Run and includes earthwork to develop a flat start area and a stopping/safety berm at the bottom. The design and location would minimize conflict with other user groups.
- **Wildfire Ski Run/Multorpor Lift line Widening:** The area proposes to widen ski runs along the Multorpor Chair Lift line to improve the merging areas and access. Some earthwork will be required to blend the area into the existing ski runs.
- **Cascade Lift line:** A strip of second growth conifers immediately east of the Cascade Chair Lift line is proposed for removal to create a wider ski run and eliminate a ski traffic bottleneck. Some earthwork will be required to blend the area into the existing ski run.

### Grooming and Patrol of Glade Ski Trail on Peak Use Weekends

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 668

Email: [pnorman@fs.fed.us](mailto:pnorman@fs.fed.us)

Timberline Lodge Ski Area has volunteered, on peak use weekends during the winter, to groom and patrol the Glade Ski Trail which runs from Timberline Lodge Ski Area to Government Camp. There would be no charge for the use by skiers using the Glade Trail. The purpose of the project is to provide a safer and more enjoyable skiing experience for those using the trail during the high use times.

# Mt. Hood National Forest Offices

## ◆ Mt. Hood National Forest

### Headquarters Office

16400 Champion Way

Sandy, OR 97055

Business: **(503) 668-1700**

Visitor Information: **(503) 622-7674**

Hours: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

## ◆ Barlow Ranger District

### Dufur Ranger Station

780 NE Court Street

Dufur, OR 97021

Phone: **(541) 467-2291**

Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

### Bear Springs Work Center

73558 Highway 216

Maupin, OR 97037

Phone: **(541) 467-2291**

Winter Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Summer Hours: July 4th - Labor Day Weekend

7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-Sat.

## ◆ Clackamas River Ranger District

### Estacada Ranger Station

595 NW Industrial Way

Estacada, OR 97023

Business: **(503) 630-6861**

Visitor Information: **(503) 630-8700**

Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-Sat

Closed on weekends during winter months.

## ◆ Hood River Ranger District

### Hood River Ranger Station

6780 Highway 35

Mt. Hood - Parkdale, OR 97041

Phone: **(541) 352-6002**

Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Summer Hours: May 30 - Sept. 6

8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, 7 days a week

## ◆ Zigzag Ranger District

### Mt. Hood Information Center

65000 E. Highway 26

Welches, OR 97067

Phone: **(503) 622-7674**

Hours: March 1 - Dec 1, 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM,  
7 days a week

Winter Hours: Dec 1 - Feb 28, 8:00 AM to 4:30  
PM, 7 days a week (Closed Dec 25)

### Zigzag Ranger Station

70220 E. Highway 26

Zigzag, OR 97049

Business: **(503) 622-3191 or (503) 668-1704**

Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

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