

Sprouts

New plans for the Mt. Hood National Forest

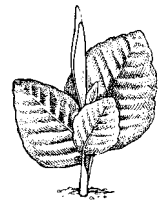
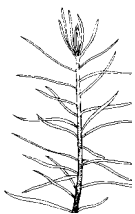
Forest Announces Special Forest Product Changes

The Mt. Hood National Forest announces changes in special forest product removal permits to take effect this spring. Mushroom harvesters must now have a permit for personal use gathering. Firewood load tickets have changed from 1/3 cord per ticket to 1/2 cord per ticket. The maximum amount allowed per household per year will now be 5 cords.

A permit is now required to harvest mushrooms for personal use. The permits will be free, and self-issuing. Permits will be available at Ranger Stations and the Mt Hood Information Center as well as on line at www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood. To get your permit on line, go to the web page, click on Special Forest Products, go to the mushroom section and follow directions from there. You can print the actual permit, fill it out, sign it, and keep it with you when you're harvesting mushrooms.

Firewood season this spring will begin as soon as the snow melts and weather permits. Personal use Firewood permits sell for \$10.00 per cord. In years past, you were allowed up to three trips to get a cord of wood out of the forest. Starting this spring, you will now have to remove your cord of wood in two trips. The limit per household per year has gone from 8 cords to a 5 cord maximum. The reason for this is declining availability.

All special forest products are being reviewed and appraised using current market value prices. This may increase or decrease the current rates being charged this spring. These price changes are being made as the result of National Direction.



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

In an effort to better serve you and conserve resources and energy, *Sprouts* is available on-line. You can now view the most current issue of *Sprouts* on the Mt. Hood National Forest Web Site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>

Projects for Spring 2002

40/60 – Project may create openings-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.

upstream to the Forest boundary, within the Fifteenmile Creek Watershed. Fifteenmile Creek is a Tier I watershed, as defined by the Northwest Forest Plan. Fifteenmile Creek is also the water source for the City of Dufur. Project description includes instream channel and flood plain restoration, riparian planting, road work, piping the Orchard Ridge Ditch (formally known as Lydia's Ditch). Post monitoring will occur. Implementation will occur in 2003. Multiple agencies will be involved: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Soil District, Oregon Department of Forestry, City of Dufur, as well as adjacent land owners.

Roads Analysis

Contact: Dick Yoder

Phone: 503-668-1773

Email: dyoder@fs.fed.us

The Mt. Hood National Forest is beginning an analysis of its mainline road system to determine the economic, environmental and social effects of the system. The analysis and an accompanying roads atlas will be available for public review on January 13, 2003.

The scope of the analysis will focus on approximately 650 miles of passenger car roads and heavily used high clearance roads. The Forest-wide Roads Analysis is not a decision document. Any changes in the management of the road system will be based upon site-specific analysis conducted in subsequent environmental assessments at the watershed or project level.

Upcoming Oregon Department of Transportation ODOT-Construction Projects

ODOT has several Mt. Hood area construction projects in the works for the next few years. Motorists in the Mt. Hood National Forest can expect minor delays during some of these construction activities.

Current Construction

For more information, please call ODOT project leader *Dave Simpson* at 503-731-8236, or Email to: David.R.SIMPSON@odot.state.or.us

- **Rockfall Protection Project on Hwy 26**
M.P.49.1—between Kiwanis Camp turnoff and the runaway truck ramp on Hwy 26. Construction begins mid to late July 2001, this will be a two-year project. Work will be shut down during the winter due to nesting issues (owl).

The rock cliff will be blasted to remove loose material, and the highway will be realigned further away from the cliff.

- **2002**—Intermittent lane closures of all lanes for paving, Monday through Thursday.

Forest-wide

River Keeper: Fifteen Mile Creek

Contact: Chris Rossel

Phone: 541-467-5119

Email: crossel@fs.fed.us

This project will be covered in the Forest-wide Watershed Restoration NEPA process beginning in the spring of 2002. This Wyden Amendment project will be off-forest, from the City of Dufur water intake

Future Construction

For more information about any of the following projects, please call ODOT project leader *Kevin Bracy* at 503-731-4850, or
Email to:
Kevin.BRACY@odot.state.or.us

- **Hood River Canyons Rockfall Project**

Mt. Hood Highway US 26-safety is a concern for both motorists passing through and for the people who live and conduct business in the mountain communities and recreational areas. Plans are underway to develop a \$3 million project to improve safety along a rockfall-prone area of Oregon Hwy 35 Hood River Highway-near Milepoint 72. This area is also known as the “S” curves. Chronic rockfall in this area presents a safety hazard for motorists.

The project involves removing unstable rock outcroppings, bolting rocks into place, installation of a rock catchment fence and placement of new concrete barrier.

The project is planned for bid letting in summer 2002, with construction beginning that fall.

During a tentative Monday through Thursday construction schedule, motorists can expect traffic to be controlled by flaggers as the roadway is reduced to one lane. Traffic will not be restricted from noon on Friday to midnight on Sunday.

- **Timberline Road — Timberline Lodge to the Hwy 26 Junction**
Goes to bid in February 2002, construction begins in the summer of 2002.

This is a preservation project. Timberline Road will be ground to an even layer and inlaid with two inches of asphalt. There will be intermittent lane closures with flaggers and cones. Motorists can expect 10-15 minute delays.

- **Zigzag to Rhododendron, Phase 1—Hwy 26 from Lolo Pass Road to Road 9**
Goes to bid in July 2002, construction begins in the fall of 2002.

This modernization project will widen the highway to four lanes with turn pockets, replace the culvert at Bear Creek with a 16’ long bridge, and alter some accesses to the highway. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained throughout the project.

- **Zigzag to Rhododendron, Phase 2—Hwy 26 from Road 9 to Rhododendron**

Goes to bid in July 2003, construction begins in the fall of 2003. This modernization project will widen the highway to four lanes with turn pockets. A major aspect of this project will be the replacement of the Zigzag River Bridge with a new 68’ wide bridge. One lane of traffic in each direction will be maintained throughout the project.

- **Palmer Quarry Environmental Impact Statement**

ODOT and the USFS will research and develop an environmental impact statement to examine the continued use of the site as a rock quarry. No impact to motorists.

- **Mineral Creek Culvert—Highway 35, just south of White River**

Bid in the summer of 2003, construction begins in the autumn of 2003.

During the White River flood in October 2000, the White River overflowed its channel and partially flowed into the Mineral Creek channel. This project will construct a new eight-foot diameter culvert next to the existing four foot culvert to help avoid a catastrophic failure of Highway 35. Shoulder closures only, minimal impact to traffic.

Future Projects

These projects are several years from construction. Contact ODOT project leader *Kevin Bracy* at 503-731-4850, or
Email to:
Kevin.BRACY@odot.state.or.us

- **2004—Multorpor U-xing to Timberline Highway**
- **2005—West Ski-Bowl to Government Camp Loop**
Both projects improve safety at the Hwy 26 junctions with the Government Camp Loop.
- **2004—Salmon River Fish Passage**
The existing culvert under Hwy 35 at the Hwy 26 junction will be replaced with a fish-friendly culvert.

Barlow Ranger District

Juncrock Planning Area, Douglas Cabin Planning Area, Stroud and Mill Creek Buttes Planning Areas

Contact: Becky Nelson

Phone: 541-467-2291

Email: bnelson@fs.fed.us

- **Juncrock Planning Area**
In response to comments received from the scoping letter the District will be writing an EIS for Juncrock. The ID team is formulating additional alternatives in response to comments received during scoping. One alternative will focus on meeting silvicultural needs of the stands, while meeting Forest Plan Standards and Guides for other resources. Another possible alternative would contain an upper diameter limit on trees in stands to be treated. The draft EIS is scheduled for completion by the end of May.
- **Douglas Cabin Planning Area**
The design team was out in the field all last fall, identifying stands in need of treatment. The early design work for the proposed action may be completed this spring. There is discussion on whether or not this planning area will be completed at this time. This planning project may be put on hold until the Stroud and Mill Creek Buttes Planning areas are completed.

- **Mill Creek Buttes has been added to the Stroud Planning Area**
Recon on the Stroud and Mill Creek Planning Areas will begin during the spring of 2002. Planning both areas will enable the district to better utilize fuels reduction dollars. Stroud Planning Area and Mill Creek Buttes are located in The Dalles City Watershed. They are included in the Surveyors Ridge LSR. The Surveyors Ridge LSR Plan was signed in 1997. These planning areas have high tree mortality due to stress and insects. Mortality has been occurring for 20 years or longer, resulting in high natural fuel loads. Stroud and Mill Creek Buttes will focus on identifying and treating stands with a high natural fuel load and restoring forest health. Stands will be better protected from a stand replacing fire if the existing fuel load is reduced.

Kenable Spring Trail Reconstruction

Contact: Dennis Beechler

Phone: 541-328-6211

Email: dbeechler@fs.fed.us

The project review team has been out in the field and has relocated the proposed trail, and shortened the reconstruction length. The existing trail is open to horses, mountain bikes, and hikers. Relocation will minimize trail maintenance and provide a better recreation experience. The crossings will be constructed on the existing trail. One will be a two stringer decked bridge and the other will consist of cobble placed in the streambed itself. Both of these stream crossings will reduce the amount of sedimentation into Fivemile Creek.

Snowmobile Trail Groomer and Snow Cat Shelter

Contact: Dennis Beechler

Phone: 541-328-6211

Email: dbeechler@fs.fed.us

The District proposes to issue a 10 year Special Use permit (Use Code 522) to the Mt. Hood Snowmobile Club for an area 1 acre in size to construct a 32'x60' storage building. This old landing is approximately 100 yards east of Skyline Snowpark. 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.

Snow Shelter at Billy Bob Snow Park

Contact: Dennis Beechler

Phone: 541-328-6211

Email: dbeechler@fs.fed.us

The Decision Memo for the warming shelter to be constructed at the Bill Bob Snow Park was signed by Ranger Paul Bryant on November 27, 2001. The site is the existing parking area of the Bill Bob Snow Park on FS Road 4400140. Work on this project will begin in June of 2002.

Swisher/West Gobbler Underburn

1480 acres)

Contact: Mel Gard

Phone: 541-467 2291

Email: mgard@fs.fed.us

Analysis of the underburns is continuing. The Barlow Ranger District is proposing to burn approximately 2,200 acres in two different areas during the fall of 2001 and spring of 2002. The objective is to introduce fire

back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, prevent the ark buildup around the base of large ponderosa pine, and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs, and shrub species.

Underburning will enhance deer and elk forage quantity and quality, reduce risk of a stand replacing fire, and protect large ponderosa trees from the effects of future underburning.

Required surveys for these projects have been completed.

Final field verifications are being completed.

Clackamas River Ranger District

Thinning Program

Contact: Jim Rice

Phone: 503-630-8705

Email: jrrice@fs.fed.us

Second-growth stands across the District are being examined for thinning opportunities. At this time, four planning areas are moving forward into the early stages of environmental analysis. Descriptions of the purpose and need, and the details of the proposed action including maps, will be available on the Forest web site (<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/pubs.htm>) in April 2002.

- **Upper Clackamas Area**

700 Acres

Contact: Jim Roden

Phone: 503-630-8722

Email: jroden@fs.fed.us

- **South Fork Clackamas and Clear Creek Area**

590 Acres

Contact: Jim Roden

Phone: 503-630-8722

Email: jroden@fs.fed.us

- **Oak Grove Area**

970 Acres

Contact: Don Davison

Phone: 503-630-8742

Email: ddavison@fs.fed.us

- **Collawash Area**

340 Acres

Contact: Don Davison

Phone: 503-630-8742

Email: ddavison@fs.fed.us

Hood River Ranger District

Bear Knoll Vegetation Restoration and Transportation Management EIS

T. 4 S., R. 9 E., Sec. 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36

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

Contact: Bruce Holmson

Phone: (541)-352-6002 Ext. 621

Email: bholmson@fs.fed.us

The Bear Knoll Planning Area is approximately 3,570 acres and is located in the White River watershed, northeast of Highway 26, northwest of Forest Road 43 and south of Forest Road 2610. The proposed action includes treating forest vegetation, constructing temporary roads, reconstructing roads, and closing roads within the planning area. In particular, thinning approximately 564 acres of dense, second growth timber stands. Overmature stands, especially those heavily infected with Indian Paint Fungus (*Echinodontium tinctorium*), are proposed to be regenerated on approximately 217 acres, some of which are within the Highway 26 corridor to help meet visual quality objectives for the long term. Commercial thinning and restoration projects of approximately 19 acres, within the riparian reserve area of Frog Creek and its tributaries, are also proposed. Overstory

removal of non-native ponderosa pine in an artificially regenerated plantation is proposed on approximately 21 acres. Temporary road construction of approximately 4.3 miles, road reconstruction of approximately 3.2 miles, and road closure and decommissioning of approximately 7.2 miles of roads are also proposed activities. A draft EIS is planned to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by Spring/Summer.

Zigzag Ranger District

Timber Stand Improvement CE

Contact: Clyde Shaver or Bob Ihrke

Phone: 503-622-3191

Email: cshaver@fs.fed.us or

bihirke@fs.fed.us

The Zigzag Ranger District is planning approximately 3,000 acres of timber stand improvement projects for the next 5 years in managed plantations ranging from 10-25 years of age. Precommercial thinning promotes tree species diversity, growth, wood quality and forest health. It reduces the susceptibility to insect and disease attacks and enhances wildlife habitat. This project is planned throughout the district but primarily in the Timothy Lake and High Rocks area. Other areas will be Trillium Lake, Wildcat and Lolo Pass. We anticipate a decision in the summer of 2003.

**Big Eddy-Ostrander
Transmission Corridor
Vegetation Management
EA**

BPA

Contact: Bill Erickson

Phone: 509-527-6249

Email: wterickson@bpa.gov

Forest Service

Contact: Marty Stein

Phone: 503-668-1764

Email: mstein@fs.fed.us

The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to remove unwanted vegetation from within its transmission line right-of-way and tower structures. The proposed project area includes 295 acres along 5.5 miles of right-of-way from Lolo Pass west to the Forest boundary. The goal is to remove tall growing vegetation that is currently, or will soon be, a hazard to continued electrical transmission. The resulting vegetative community would consist of low growing shrubs and herbs. Unwanted vegetation would be removed with a combination of manual, mechanical and chemical means. Any herbicide use would be ground based and applied only to the target plant. Treatments would be designed to provide for a 3 to 8 year maintenance-free period. In addition, four noxious weed species occur within the transmission right-of-way. To control and eventually eradicate weed populations, it is proposed that herbicide would be applied to individual weed plants, leaving desirable plant species. Treatments for noxious weeds would be conducted annually.

**Lady Creek Waterline
Replacement**

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: 503-622-3191, ext. 668

Email: pnorman@fs.fed.us

The Lady Creek Water District is proposing to replace approximately 1.25 miles of waterline within the District's recreation residence tract. The majority of work will be within or immediately adjacent to Forest Road 2635. Project implementation is proposed for the summer of 2002.

Hazardous Trees

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: 503-622-3191 ext. 668

Email: pnorman@fs.fed.us

A survey was recently completed on the Zigzag Ranger District that identified numerous trees with root disease within the Recreation Residence tracts on the district. These trees have been identified with metal tags near their bases. A letter will be coming from the Zigzag Ranger District reminding homeowners of their responsibility to keep their lots reasonably hazard free. Information on permittee responsibilities and treatment of hazardous trees will be shared with permittees at the Mt. Hood Forest Homeowners Annual Meeting April 30, 2002 in Portland. There will also be a public information workshop in the Zigzag/Welches area in June at a location and date still to be determined.



OFFICIAL BUSINESS
Penalty for Private Use \$300

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