

Sprouts

New plans for the Mt. Hood National Forest

Who's Who at Cooper Spur

Rumors are flying and the Forest would like to clarify what is happening and what is not happening on the north side of Mt. Hood. The "Coopers" that are being discussed, mixed up and confused are:

- Polallie-Cooper Planning Area,
- Cooper Spur Inn, and
- Cooper Spur Ski Area.

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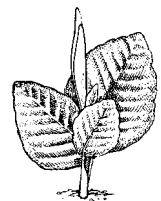
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USDA Forest Service



Mt. Hood National Forest



Summer 2002

Continued from front . . .

- ***Polallie Cooper Planning Area*** was a project started in 1996 and it involves several timber sales (Tartan, Klan, Kilt) that the Forest proposed. The NEPA process was completed, including administrative appeals, and a couple of those sales should be advertised this year. The timber sales had nothing to do with the nearby Cooper Spur Ski Area and, in fact, the timber sales are located on pretty flat land that is not conducive to downhill skiing. Although we recognize the need to somehow treat the dead and dying trees and the resulting fuel buildup in the ski area (caused by spruce budworm), there has never been a discussion between the Forest and the ski area to harvest timber units that could then become ski terrain. The ski area's current managers have been authorized to widen a skid road in the Klan timber sale to provide a cross-country ski trail connection to the private land at Cooper Spur Inn.
- ***Cooper Spur Inn***, private land owned and operated by North Face Inn LLC, is located north of the ski area and the timber sales. The owners recently exchanged timber lands with Hood River County Forestry Department and the private land is now around 700 acres. There are rumors about a possible destination resort on this land, but to our knowledge no proposals have reached the County Planning Department at this time. The Forest is not involved with any planning of the private land. If an agency-to-agency comment is requested from the county, the Forest could submit comments, but we have no regulatory control over county and state land use planning.
- ***Cooper Spur Ski Area (CSSA)*** is owned by Meadows North LLC, and is under a 40-year special use permit with the Forest. It was purchased from the previous owner in 2001. There is a current proposal for a new chairlift to replace the obsolete T-bar lift and a decision memo is expected in early summer to authorize that lift. We anticipate the ski area will submit a proposed master development plan this summer which will likely include further development of the 1,400 acre permit area, of which 50 acres has been developed. Like Government Camp, the bottom of CSSA is only 3,800 ft elevation, so reliable snow can be a problem some years. The upper limits of the current permit area are closer to 5,000 ft. where better snow conditions can be found.

When a master plan is proposed for the ski area, we will embark on an EIS process including public involvement. If you would like to be on the mailing list for ***Cooper Spur Ski Area*** planning, send your address and/or email address to Doug Jones, Hood River Ranger District, 6780 Hwy 35, Mt. Hood, OR 97041; 541-352-6002; dgjones@fs.fed.us.

We will post updates and planning documents on the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood. If you have questions about any of these Coopers, please contact Project Coordinator Doug Jones, or District Ranger Kim Titus at the above address.

Projects for Summer 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.

covered many projects, some of which may soon be implemented. There remain a number of important restoration projects that were not envisioned last year or a site-specific plan was not sufficiently developed to allow an analysis to proceed.

This year's effort will rely on some of last year's prioritization modeling and will include similar fisheries and water quality restoration projects. However, this year the scope of the restoration effort will be expanded to include other ecosystem restorations such as projects for wildlife habitat.

There will be several opportunities to comment on this effort. Each issue of *Sprouts* will contain an update for this project. As time goes by, you will read about our prioritization efforts and about the proposed actions in increasing detail. Last year's project titled *2001 Fish Habitat and Water Quality Restoration Projects* can be viewed on our web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/pubs.htm>.

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 is 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 alternative addresses an upper diameter limit on trees in stands to be treated. The draft EIS is scheduled for completion by the end of July.
- **Douglas Cabin Planning Area:** This planning area has been put on hold until the Juncrock EIS is completed. The design team has completed the initial field.
- **Mill Creek Buttes and Stroud Planning Area:** This planning area has also been put on hold until the Juncrock EIS is complete. No further work will be done in this planning area at this time.

Forest-wide

Watershed Restoration 2002

Contact: *John Dodd*

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: jdodd@fs.fed.us

Mail Address: *John Dodd*

Hood River Ranger Station

6780 Highway 35

Parkdale, OR 97041

The Mt. Hood National Forest is conducting another Forest-wide analysis of watershed restoration opportunities. Last year, the Forest completed an Environmental Assessment that

Knebal Springs Trail Reconstruction

Contact: Dennis Beechler

Phone: (541) 328-6211

Email: dbeechedler@fs.fed.us

The project review team has been out in the field and has relocated the proposed trail, and is shortening 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. Work is continuing on this project.

Snowmobile Trail Groomer and Snow Cat Shelter

Contact: Dennis Beechler

Phone: (541) 328-6211

Email: dbeechedler@fs.fed.us

The CE for this project was signed by Jeff Walter for Acting Forest Supervisor Kathryn J. Silverman on February 25, 2002. This CE approves construction of a 32' x 60' storage building on an old landing approximately 100 yards east of Skyline Snow-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 2,000 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. Work has not begun on this project at this time.

Ramsey Underburn

T.22 S., R. 11 E., Sec. 13,14;

T.2 S., R.12E., Sec. 7, 9 (700 acres)

Contact: Mel Gard

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: mgard@fs.fed.us

The Decision Memo for this underburn was signed by Acting District Ranger Stanley M. Hinatsu on April 15, 2002. The proposed action fits under Category 6, Section 31.2, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15. September 18, 1992: "Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities which do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction." d. Prescribed burning to reduce natural fuel buildup and improve plant vigor. The proposal does not involve any extraordinary circumstances. The project reduces natural fuels and improves plant health and sustainability.

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. The objective is to introduce fire back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, prevent the ark build up around the base of large ponderosa pine, and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs, and shrub species. Underburning would 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.

East of 27 Underburn

T.3 S. R. 12 E., Sec. 7, 9, 17, 29; T.3 S., R.11 E., Sec. 12, 13, 24 (1,500 acres)

Contact: Mel Gard

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: mgard@fs.fed.us

This EA has been completed and a portion of the project has been underburned. The remaining 150 acres will be underburned in the spring of 2003.

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 would be off forest, from the City of Dufur water intake upstream to the Forest boundary, within the Fifteen Mile Creek Watershed. Fifteen Mile Creek is a Tier I watershed, as defined by the Northwest Forest Plan. Fifteen Mile 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 Lyda's Ditch). Post monitoring would occur. Implementation is proposed for 2003. Multiple agencies are involved (Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Natural Resource Conservation Soil District, Oregon Department of Forestry, City of Dufur), as well as adjacent land owners.

Wolf Run Ditch Piping and Water Measurement Weir

Contact: John Dodd

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: jdodd@fs.fed.us

The Barlow Ranger District, in partnership with the Wolf Run Ditch Company, will pipe 3,600 feet of ditch and install a water measuring weir immediately below the current out take at Eightmile Campground. The piping project will occur off forest and the water measuring weir will be installed within the existing ditch itself. The project fits under Category 3, Section 31.2, Forest Service Handbook 1909.15-15-92-1, September 18, 1992: "Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of National forest System Lands that require less than 5 contiguous acres of land." The project does not involve extraordinary circumstances. This piping project will reduce leakage from the ditch and maintain a higher flow of water in Eightmile Creek.

Precommercial Thinning (TSI) CE

Contact: Edan Lira

Phone: 541-467-2291

Email: elira@fs.fed.us

A CE will be prepared for approximately 3800 acres of precommercial thinning. Work will be accomplished over the next five years. Precommercial thinning, thinning trees less than 8 inches in diameter, promotes forest health, species diversity, increases growth and wood quality, and reduces susceptibility of treated stands to fire, insect and disease problems. A decision is expected by the winter of 2002.

Clackamas River Ranger District

Thinning Program

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 and photos, are available on the Forest web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/projects.htm>

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

Trail Reconstruction Projects

Contact: Kevin Slagle

Phone: (541)-352-6002x605

Email: kslagle@fs.fed.us

The Hood River Ranger District proposes to reconstruct the following trails in the years 2002-2005.

- Pacific Crest Trail from Lolo Pass to Bald Mountain,
- Barlow Pass to Wapinitia,
- Palmateer Trail,
- Timberline Trail from Cloud Cap to White River, and
- Elk Cove to McNeil Point.

Most of the work would occur within the existing cleared trail area. During planning, some minor relocations may be identified for consideration.

Teacup Groomed Tracks Warming Shelter and Groomer Garage

T3S, R10E, Section 12

Contact: Kevin Slagle

Phone: (541)-352-6002x605

Email: kslagle@fs.fed.us

This proposal is for a warming shelter to be constructed near the Teacup Sno-Park that would replace the existing warming trailer. A garage to house the grooming cat would also be constructed adjacent to the State gravel storage area across Highway 35.

Zigzag Ranger District

Government Camp Water Company

Installation of a 250,000 gallon water storage tank

45° 18' 46.06" N; 121° 44' 7.71" W

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

Government Camp Water Company is proposing to install a 250,000 gallon water storage tank in the vicinity of the water company's spring source to meet county health and fire regulations. Installation would occur this summer.

Mt. Hood Ski Bowl Resort

(H. Ski Corporation)

Day-Lodge Expansion

45° 18' 8.81" N; 121° 46' 10.49 W

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

H. Ski Corporation proposes to acquire the Government Camp Sanitation District's abandoned plant facility and convert it to day lodge and administrative office space. Expansion of day lodge facilities is authorized under the resort's current Master Development Plan.

Timberline Ski Area

(RLK and Company)

New Chair Lift and Ski Trail

System Construction

R 9E, T 3S, SW1/4, Section 7

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

Timberline Ski Area proposes to construct a new chairlift and trail system in the southwest corner of the ski area's special use permit boundary. The proposal would expand the permit boundary by approximately 40 acres. The proposal would involve approximately 55 acres of forested lands. Analysis for this proposal will be documented in an Environmental Impact Statement.

Mazama Lodge Interpretive Trail

45° 18' 14.76" N; 121° 44' 18.76"

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

The Mazamas' are proposing to construct a 1/3-mile interpretive trail in the vicinity of the club's lodge. Construction would occur this summer.

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 online. You can now view the most current issue of Sprouts on the Mt. Hood National Forest Website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>



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