

Sprouts

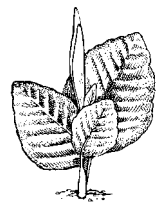
New plans for the Mt. Hood National Forest

Resource Advisory Committees Selected

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced the chartering of the Hood/Willamette Resource Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC, one of many nationwide provided for in the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, will review and recommend projects to the Forest Service totaling \$3.5 million during the coming months.

The RAC, which is composed of local citizens, will have an opportunity to recommend projects that benefit local trails, roads, forest health, watershed, and fish and wildlife habitat on National Forest lands in Clackamas, Douglas, Hood River, Lane, Linn, Marion, Multnomah and Wasco counties. The RAC will also coordinate with agency officials and provide opportunities for interested parties to participate in project development.

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Rob Iwamoto, Acting Forest Supervisor, Willamette National Forest, and K.J. Silverman, Acting Forest Supervisor, Mt. Hood National Forest, recognize the RAC as an exciting partnership for the Forest Service and local communities that will benefit watersheds and support healthy rural communities and healthy forest ecosystems.

The Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 (Public Law 106-393) replaced an arrangement that gave counties 25% of Forest Service receipts from logging, grazing, recreation and other activities on National Forest lands. In the last decade, these receipts have dwindled with changes in National Forest management. This year, under Public Law 106-393, Oregon counties will share \$152.8 million. This compares to \$76.3 million shared by counties in 2000 and \$80.8 million in 1999.

Fifteen members, representing a wide array of interests, will serve on each RAC. The citizens that have been selected to serve on the Hood/Willamette RAC are: John Borden (Salem), Arthur Carroll (Hood River), James Geisinger (Estacada), Larry Horton (Oakridge), Robert Keefer (Springfield), Francisca Leyva-Johnson (Veneta), John Lindsay (Lebanon), Anthony Lum (Eugene), Jane Rodin (Eugene), Anne Saxby (Hood River), David Schmidt (Scio), Robert Schuppe (Hood River), Arthur Smith (Dufur), Virginia Van Loo (Milwaukie), and Dale Waddell (Beaver Creek).

The first RAC meeting is scheduled for January 24 and 25, 2002 at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany, Oregon. This first meeting will be orientation and training for RAC members. Meetings are open to the public and time will be set aside for public comments.

For further information contact Mike Rassbach, Sweet Home District Ranger, 541-367-9201, Kim Titus, Mt. Hood Acting Deputy Forest Supervisor, 503-668-1750, or Donna Short, Designated Federal Official, 541-367-9220.

Projects for Winter 2002

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

Restoration 2001 Environmental Assessment

Contact: *Jim Roden*

Phone: (503) 630-8722

Email: *jroden@fs.fed.us*

The Mt. Hood National Forest has conducted a Forest-wide analysis of fish habitat and water quality restoration opportunities.

Multiple decision documents have been signed for groups of projects. At this time two Decision Memos and one Decision Notice have been signed approving 90% of the projects included in the EA. One or more additional documents will likely be signed in the near future to approve other projects that had to be delayed for administrative reasons.

If you would like a copy of the environmental assessment or decision documents, they can be downloaded from the Forest web site at www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/pubs.htm.

Stay tuned for news about Restoration 2002; the next round of restoration opportunities.

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 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.

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.

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**
The scooping letter and map were sent out. Two recurrent concerns were identified in the responses: 1) the conversion of late seral structure to a younger, non-old growth condition, and 2) the extension of existing roads into areas without access. The District Ranger has decided to proceed with an EIS rather than an EA. The EIS is scheduled to be completed by the end of May, 2002.
- **Douglas Cabin Planning Area**
The design team has been in the field this fall, identifying stands in need of treatment, either vegetation manipulation or through fuels manipulation. The early design work will be completed this fall. The Purpose and Need is being formulated. Treatments will address both forest health and fuels reduction issues. The Environmental Analysis is scheduled to be completed in the late winter of 2002.
- **Mill Creek Buttes and Stroud Planning Areas**
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 insect attack. Mortality has been occurring for 20 years or longer, resulting in a high load of natural fuels. 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.

Eightmile Creek Culvert Replacement

Contact: Becky Nelson

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: bnelson@fs.fed.us

The EA has been completed and the Decision Notice was signed September 26, 2001. Culvert replacement is scheduled to begin in 2002. This project will require that both the Upper and Lower Eightmile Creek Campgrounds be closed at different times.

Kenable Spring Trail Reconstruction

Contact: Dennis Beechler

Phone: (541) 328-6211

Email: dbeechler@fs.fed.us

The project review team 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' X 60 foot 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

Under a Decision Memo, the Barlow Ranger District has decided to allow the Columbia Gorge Power Sledgers to build a snow/warming shelter at Billy Bob Snow Park. The site is the existing parking area of the Billy Bob Snow Park on FS Road 4400140. The area occupied by the building will be less than one acre. Staging and storage of building materials and equipment will occur in the existing parking area. The CE is completed. Work on this project will begin in June of 2002.

Highland Irrigation Ditch Fish Screen and Diversion Structure Refurbishment

Contact: Linda Cartwright

Phone: (541) 467-2291

Email: lcartwright@fs.fed.us

The Decision Memo for this project was signed on October 10, 2001. Work on this project will begin early in the spring of 2002. The project involves installation of a fish screen, ladder, and diversion structure at the Highland Irrigation Ditch in the Badger Wilderness. Project tools and materials will be hauled to the site along the existing ditch bed, using a tractor, ATV's, and foot travel. The project will meet Oregon State requirements for screening fish bearing streams and Forest Service direction under the Northwest Forest Plan. Expected results are increased redband/inland trout populations in Badger Creek.

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 build up 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.

East of 27 Underburn

T.3 S. R. 12 E., sec. 7, 9, 17, & 29, and T.3 S., R.11 E., sec. 12, 13, & 24 (1500 acres)

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 2002.

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.

- **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

Eastside Districts – Special Use Permits

Contact: Doug Jones

Phone: (541) 352-6002 ext 682

dgjones@fs.fed.us

Hood River Valley Ranger Station

6780 Hwy 35

Mt. Hood, OR 97041

The Hood River and Barlow Ranger Districts propose re-issuing the following special use permits for existing facilities on the forest. Except for government agencies, private holders pay annual fees for their authorizations. Comments needed before February 1, 2002

- **Pinacole Tower Company**
20 year lease for communication site on Mt. Defiance AND buried power line serving the same site.
- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
20 year permit for radio repeater equipment placed in Forest Service radio shack on Mt. Defiance.
- **Washington Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR)**
20 year lease for communication site on Mt. Defiance.
- **Farmers Irrigation District**
A permanent easement for existing water pipeline in the Green Point area northwest of Dee.
- **Mike and Sue Faulkner**
20 year permit for a spring and 800 ft. buried pipeline carrying domestic water to a private home on Hess Road near BPA power line.

- **Donald Branton**
20 year permit for a spring development and 300 ft. buried water pipeline serving the Mt. Shadows subdivision on Cooper Spur Road.
- **Hood River Electric Coop**
20 year permit for buried power line from Cooper Spur Inn to Cooper Spur Ski Area. A new cable to be laid in ditch along road next summer, paid for by Cooper Spur Ski Area.
- **Wasco County Sheriff**
20 year permit for a radio repeater located at Flag Point lookout site.
- **Oregon Department of Transportation**
20 year permit for the Warm Springs Junction Maintenance yard and employee housing site at the Hwy 26/216 junction. This site is larger than 5 acres, so does not qualify for a categorical exclusion under Forest Service NEPA policy.
- **The Crag Rats**
20 year permit for use and maintenance of Cloud Cap Inn. Permit holder typically performs heavy maintenance and restoration in lieu of fees. Current permit expires December 2002.
- **The Snowshoe Club**
10 year permit as a private club. Club structure located adjacent to Cloud Cap Inn. Current permit expires December 2002.

Zigzag Ranger District

Timber Stand Improvement CE

Contact: Clyde Shaver or Bob Ihrke

Phone: (503) 622-3191

Email: cshaver@fs.fed.us or bihrke@fs.fed.us

The Zigzag Ranger District is planning a 3,400 acre precommercial thinning timber stand improvement project 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. The primary areas will be Wildcat Mountain, Lolo Pass, Trillium Lake, Timothy Lake, and the High Rocks area. We anticipate a decision in the spring of 2002.

Reed College Swallow Research Project

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

This research proposal would involve issuing a three year special use permit to install a total of 115 nesting boxes in Salmon River Meadows (R9E, T4S, section 7) and 25 nesting boxes in the Multorpor Fen (R8E, T3S, section 24) as part of a long term research project on tree and violet tree swallows. The purpose is to study the population and reproductive behavior of these birds. Nesting boxes would be installed on metal fence stakes. The boxes would be checked every 1-3 day period during the nesting season.

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp Improvements

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

The Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp proposes to upgrade existing facilities and construct new facilities as approved in their Master Development Plan to allow the Camp to better serve its primary client base (children and adults with mental and physical challenges), as well as other appropriate groups on a year round basis. Specifics include:

- Construct 5 camper/councilor cabins.
- Construct a health care/office building.
- Relocate a campfire assembly area/amphitheater.
- Create a new pedestrian entryway.
- Complete in-stream restoration and stream bank rehabilitation of the Little Zigzag River in the vicinity of the Camp's base area.
- Renew the Camp's long term special use permit

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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