



Sports

Developing a Mt. Hood Recreation Community of Interests

The Mt. Hood National Forest is exploring a new model for collaborative discussions with recreation stakeholders in and around Mt. Hood. Given the relatively large recreation demand and the importance of involving recreation stakeholders, this project seeks to develop relationships, understanding and trust that would form the basis for forging a common vision, and finding ways for recreation interests to work together on projects of common interest.

Through a partnership with the U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution, the State of Oregon's Public Policy Dispute Resolution Program, and the Mt. Hood National Forest, we contracted to conduct a neutral assessment of the possibility of developing a community of recreation interests in and around Mt. Hood National Forest. The contractors were asked to assess the history, current climate, and potential for engaging stakeholders in collaborative approaches.

Common themes that emerged from the assessment are:

- Quality recreation must be preserved.
- Varied economic interests related to recreation exist and need to be accommodated.

- Natural and cultural resources must be preserved.
- Urban interests impact the area and need to be involved
- Recreation needs to be considered in a regional context.
- Defining stewardship and behavioral norms will be important in the future.

The next step is currently underway. It involves:

- Convening recreation stakeholders to create a commonly shared vision about public and private recreation in and around Mt. Hood.
- Creating a venue for agencies to work together with citizens, interest groups and businesses.
- Finding ways for partners with common interests to create and collaborate on projects formulated to meet their respective interests and attain shared vision.

More information about this project can be found on the Mt. Hood National Forest website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>; or contact Penny Falknor, Forest Partnership Coordinator, (503) 668-1725; pfalknor@fs.fed.us.

Plan Amendment to Remove the Survey and Manage Standards and Guidelines

The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) (collectively the Agencies) will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to meet the requirements of a Settlement Agreement pursuant to a lawsuit by Douglas Timber Operators against the Forest Service and BLM. The proposed action, generally, is to change the Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl (Northwest Forest Plan), currently included in planning documents of the Forest Service and BLM. Specifically, the Agencies propose to remove the Survey and Manage mitigation measure standards and guidelines. Habitat needs of the affected rare or little known species would rely on other elements of the Northwest Forest Plan and the existing Forest Service Sensitive Species and the BLM Special Status Species programs, as needed and appropriate. The proposed action would amend land and resource management plans for National Forests and BLM Districts within the range of the northern spotted owl (generally western Oregon and Washington, and northwestern California). This action will be addressed in a SEIS because the affected species and their management were specifically addressed in the Agency's SEIS for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, issued in November, 2000, and because the species and their habitat were also addressed in the SEIS for the Northwest Forest Plan, issued in February, 1994. Notice of this proposal was first published in the Federal Register on October 21, 2002.

Draft SEIS: January 31, 2003; *Public Comment Period:* February 1, 2003—May 1, 2003; *Final SEIS:* June 20, 2003; *Record of Decision:* July 25, 2003.

For more information on this proposal or to receive a copy of the draft SEIS, write to: Survey and Manage SEIS Team, PO Box 2965, Portland, OR 97208.

Forest-Wide Projects

Tamarack Rock Quarry Expansion EIS

Contact: Mike Redmond

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The Proposed Action includes expansion of the existing Tamarack rock quarry (formerly called Mud Creek) on approximately 60 acres of National Forest System land. The proposal may also include road improvements on the access road to the quarry. The rock excavated from the quarry would be used over time by the Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation to help meet the long-term needs of maintenance, and reconstruction of roads in the Mt. Hood area.

The project area is located approximately 4 miles south of Government Camp, in Section 2, T.4S, R.8-1/2E, Willamette Meridian, Clackamas County, Oregon. The project area does not include any wilderness, roadless areas, wild and scenic rivers, late successional reserves, or riparian reserves.

Some of the preliminary issues that have been identified include visual quality as seen from key view points on the Forest, and traffic management conflict between commercial use and recreation.

The draft EIS is planned to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and available for public review by September 2003. The EPA will publish a Notice of Availability (NOA) of the draft EIS in the Federal Register. The comment period on the draft EIS will be 45 days from the date the NOA appears in the Federal Register.

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.

Forest-Wide Projects

Watershed Restoration 2003

Contact: John Dodd

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In the last issue of *Sprouts* we described a project called Watershed Restoration 2003. At this time we have a list of projects that are in the developmental stage. We still must do field surveys for plants and animals and heritage resources, as well as other detailed analyses of the costs, impacts and benefits of the projects. The final list of projects may be pared down somewhat depending on what we find. The following is intended to give you a feel for the types of projects being considered.

- **Fish Passage Projects**

Certain culverts at road/stream crossings partially or totally block fish passage. Includes culvert replacement or culvert removal so that fish can get through to access habitat on the other side. Includes 53 culverts.

- **Ditch to Pipe Conversions**

Irrigation ditches leak and occasionally wash out. Pipes would be installed to transport water, reducing seepage and erosion. Includes Wolf Run Ditch and Lyda's Ditch.

- **Fencing**

Includes fencing of meadows and sensitive areas to control the movement of livestock. Two fences are included.

- **Wildlife and Vegetation Management Projects**

- Oaks would be released by cutting small conifers.
- Snags would be created from live trees by girdling, topping, and heart rot inoculation.
- Down Woody Debris would be created by felling trees in areas that are deficient.
- Roads would be closed to reduce harassment.
- Meadows would be restored by removing encroaching young conifers.

- **Rock Quarry and Gravel Stockpile Restoration**

Includes the addition of soil, reestablishment of natural drainage patterns and revegetation. Three areas would be restored.

- **In-stream Projects**

Includes the addition of logs or boulders into streams to create pools and improve diversity.

- **Riparian Projects**

Includes riparian planting and thinning in the dry upland areas near streams.

- **Road Stabilization and Repair**

Includes deep patch repairs of cracking and sinking roadways, resurfacing and erosion control. Twenty-three miles of roads would be repaired.

- **Road Decommissioning**

Includes the removal of gravel and culverts (if any) and deep ripping, water barring, and revegetating. Twelve miles of roads would be decommissioned.

Project descriptions and maps are available at the Mt. Hood National Forest web site. Look under Forest Projects at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood>.

It is anticipated that an Environmental Assessment will be completed sometime in 2003.

We are continuing to implement the restoration projects from last year's EA as funding becomes available. Last year's EA and the prioritization model can be viewed at our web site under Forest Publications.

Barlow Ranger District Projects

Juncrock Planning Area

Contact: *Becky Nelson*

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Email: *bnelson01@fs.fed.us*

The draft EIS is nearing completion. The document will be available on the Mt. Hood web site. Individuals who have sent comments will receive a notice of the availability of the draft document.

Pen Creek Underburn (2,500 acres)

Contact: *Joel Pomeroy*

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: *jpomeroy@fs.fed.us*

Formally known as East of 27 #2, this underburn is still in the planning stages. It is located between Tygh Creek and Jordan Creek on the Barlow Ranger District. The purpose is to introduce fire back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs and shrub species. A public comment period for this project will be available this summer and required surveys should be completed this fall. Expected completion date for the CE is summer of 2004 with completion of the project being spring or fall of 2005.

Swisher/West Gobbler Underburn (1,480 acres)

Contact: *Joel Pomeroy*

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: *jpomeroy@fs.fed.us*

Analysis of the underburns is continuing. The purpose is to introduce fire back into the ecosystem, reduce the natural accumulation of litter, prevent the bark build-up around the base of large ponderosa pines and enhance the fire dependent native grasses, forbs and shrub species. Underburning will reduce the risk of a stand replacing fire, enhance deer and elk forage quantity and quality, and protect large ponderosa trees from the effects of future underburning. These underburns are consistent with the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan for the protection of the wildland/urban interface. Required surveys have been completed and final field verifications are taking place. A public comment period will be available this summer and the expected completion date of the CE is this fall. Completion of the project is planned for spring or fall of 2004.

Sportsman's Park Fuel Modification (250 acres)

Contact: *Joel Pomeroy*

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: *jpomeroy@fs.fed.us*

This project is in the beginning planning stages. The purpose is to increase fire suppression effectiveness and firefighter safety and reduce the probability of damage from a wildfire to the community of Sportsman's Park by reducing the threat of crown fire and providing a defensible space for firefighters. Project boundaries will encompass up to 1,500 feet around the perimeter of Sportsman's Park and may include both mechanical and prescribed fire treatments. This project is consistent with the 10-year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan for the protection of the wildland/urban interface. Required surveys may be completed this fall with project completion sometime in 2004 or 2005. A public comment period will be available this summer.

Special Use Permits

Contact: *Doug Jones*

Phone: (541) 352-6002

Email: *dgjones@fs.fed.us*

The following special use permits have expired and the Barlow Ranger District intends to issue new 20-year permits for the existing facilities. No new developments are proposed.

- **Rock Creek Improvement District**
Rock Creek dam, reservoir and associated feeder ditches, diversions and pipeline.
- **Sportsman's Park Water Association**
Water transmission pipeline and 90,000 gallon storage tank.
- **Lost-Boulder Irrigation District**
A permit for water diversions, pipeline and open ditches.
- **Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT)**
Permit for the Warm Springs Junction maintenance compound at the Hwy 26/216 junction. Maintenance yard and employee housing.
- **Wasco County Sheriff Radio Repeater**
A radio repeater at Flag Point Lookout
- **Wolf Run Ditch**
A permanent free easement for Wolf Run Ditch (ditches and pipeline) and diversion from Eightmile Creek. The irrigation district continues to work with the forest to pipe as much of the ditch as possible to minimize water loss.

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>

Clackamas River Ranger District Projects

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/> under Forest Projects.

- **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

Olallie Lake Resort Defensible Space

Contact: *Craig Edberg*

Phone: (503) 630-8786

Email: cedberg@fs.fed.us

Fire hazard is high in the Olallie Lake area due to buildup of fuels. The lake and the improvements around the lake, and the public that use the area are at risk from wildfire. This project involves the creation of a defensible space from fire around the Olallie Lake Resort and Paul Dennis Campground. This would entail making a 500-foot wide shaded fuel break around the east and north sides of the historic resort and campground. The treatment would cover approximately 60 acres, removing brush and small trees. No new temporary or permanent roads would be constructed and leave trees would be left at variable spacing. The intent of a shaded fuel break is to eliminate ladder fuels that would otherwise create an intense crown fire. Instead, an approaching fire would burn on the ground with low intensity giving firefighters a chance to extinguish it. Descriptions of the project, including maps and photos, are available on the Forest web site: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/> under Forest Projects.

This is the first stage of a multi-phase effort to deal with fire hazard in the area.

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.

Hood River Ranger District Projects

SCCA Road Rally

Contact: Stewart Fletcher
Phone: 541-352-6002, ext. 616
Email: sjfletcher@fs.fed.us

Hood River and Barlow Districts will consider a proposal by the Oregon Chapter of the Sports Car Club of America to host an "Against the Clock" Road Rally on several single lane gravel roads within the Forest in October 2003. Roads 17, 4440, 1722, 1722160 will require up to six hour temporary closures on a weekend to provide for public safety.

Bear Knoll Planning Area

T.4S., R.9E., Sec. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 33, 34, 35, 36 and T.5S., R.9. 2, 3, 4, 10

Contact: Pat Haley
Phone: (541) 467-2291
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This planning effort has started up again. Bear Knoll proposes to thin overstocked mature and immature stands through commercial timber sales and the sale of special forest products (post, poles and firewood). Over-mature stands, especially those heavily infected with Indian Paint Fungus, are proposed to be regenerated. Commercial thinning and restoration projects are proposed in the riparian reserve area of Frog Creek. Visual enhancement projects along Highway 26 are proposed. Removal of off-site ponderosa in one plantation is proposed. Temporary road construction, road closure and decommissioning are also proposed. An EIS will be completed during the spring of 2003.

Long Prairie Grazing Allotment

Contact: Dan Fissell
Phone: (541) 467-5117
Email: dfissell@fs.fed.us

An Environmental Assessment is scheduled for this grazing allotment during 2003. The analysis will determine the level and intensity of grazing management within this allotment. The plan will also identify restoration opportunities. The Decision Notice is anticipated in the fall of 2003.

Lost Lake Interpretive Talks

Contact: Ron Kikel
Phone: (541) 352-6002
Email: rkikel@fs.fed.us

Beginning July 4th, and continuing through Labor Day weekend, the Hood River Ranger District's interpretive staff will be presenting programs at the Lost Lake Amphitheater on the weekends. On Friday and Saturday nights, the whole family is invited to the Evening Programs starting shortly after 7 pm. These entertaining talks focus on some element of the outdoor experience with topics ranging from Bears to Identifying Historic Garbage. For those young people (and

young at heart) that want to learn more about nature, there will also be the infamous Jr. Ranger Program on Saturday afternoons. The interpretive staff will also gladly put together special group programs or nature hikes for boy/girl scout troops, classrooms, clubs, and other groups upon request. For more information about Lost Lake or special presentations, please contact Ron Kikel or Sarah Grocholski at the Hood River Ranger District.

Cooper Spur Ski Area Summer Projects 2003

Contact: Doug Jones
Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682
Email: dgjones@fs.fed.us

Cooper Spur Ski Area proposes increasing parking by about 1 acre to meet the needs of existing users who often cannot find parking on busy weekends. The parking expansion would occur largely by widening the out-bound road from the old rock quarry north. The area also wants to install a buried waterline approx. 3,000 feet long from the nearby private land, up the Nordic ski trail to the base of the ski area. The water would be used for snowmaking around the base and on the tubing hill. The line could be up to 8 inch diameter.

Teacup Lake Shelter & SnoPark Enlargement

Contact: Doug Jones
Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682
Email: djones@fs.fed.us

The Oregon Nordic Club-Teacup Chapter has proposed building a permanent warming shelter at the Teacup Lake nordic ski trails area. The shelter would replace a poor trailer that is moved in and out each year. The shelter site and associated roads would mean removing about 100 trees. The Club is also proposing to expand the snopark about 100 feet to the north to accommodate more parking. Both projects could occur in 2004.

Special Use Permits

Contact: Doug Jones
Phone: (541) 352-6002, ext. 682
Email: djones@fs.fed.us

The following special use permits have expired and the Hood River Ranger District intends to issue new 20-year permits for the existing facilities. No new developments are proposed.

- **Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Repeater**
Radio repeater on Mt. Defiance
- **Farmer's Irrigation District Pipeline**
A permanent free easement for water transmission pipeline and diversions.

Zigzag Ranger District Projects

Lady Creek Water Line Replacement and Permit Renewal

Contact: Paul Norman

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 668

Email: pnorman@fs.fed.us

The Lady Creek Water District is replacing approximately 4,000' of water line within the District's recreation residence tracts. Project implementation is planned for the summer of 2003. The special use permit for the water district has expired and needs to be renewed. The Forest Service is evaluating reissuing the special use permit to the current permittee to allow for continued use of the water system collection and transmission facilities on National Forest Lands.

Timberline Ski Area Timberline Express Lift and Ski Trail System R 9E, T 3S, SW1/4, Section 7

Contact: Paul Koehler

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 614

Email: pkoehler@fs.fed.us

Based on both agency and public scoping responses, we will be developing alternatives to the proposed action. The proposed action consists of constructing a new detachable quad (four passenger) chairlift and 6 new trails in the southwest corner of the ski area's special use permit boundary. The proposal also includes an addition of approximately 10 acres to the existing 1,400 acre permit boundary. A draft EIS is anticipated to be completed and available for public review by August 2003.

Mt. Hood Kiwanis Camp Facility 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 authorized in the camp's approved Master Development Plan. The improvements are needed to better serve the camp's primary client base (children and adults with mental & physical disabilities). A new 30-year term permit would be reissued to the Camp. The proposal does not represent an expansion of the permit boundary, the authorized capacity or the authorized uses.

Sewer Line Construction Special Use Permit and Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Contact: Mike Malone

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext 608

Email: mmalone@fs.fed.us

T3N, R7E, Section 11, SE ¼

The proposed action is to issue a CE and special use permit to the owner of a private residential housing tract consisting of three homes near Rhododendron, Oregon. These three homes have experienced a failure of their sand filter sewer system. Clackamas County has identified this as a serious public health hazard. The property owner has exhausted all alternatives to

address this problem, and has applied for permits through the Forest Service and the Oregon Department of Transportation to route an underground sewer line from the property to the Clackamas County Service District 1, Hoodland Service Area sanitary sewer. The proposed sewer line would cross through approximately 1,500 feet of Forest Service land. The project area lies within or adjacent to the road prism of Highway 26.

Rhododendron Summer Home Assoc. Water System Permit Renewal and Categorical Exclusion (CE)

Contact: Mike Malone

Phone: (503) 622-3191, ext. 608

Email: mmalone@fs.fed.us

T3S, R7E, portions of Sections 2, 3, 11 & 12

The proposed action is to renew the existing special use permit (which has expired) and issue a CE for the operation of the Rhododendron Summer Home Association Water System. This project is for renewal of the permit only and does not include any ground disturbing activities. This water system provides water to approximately 300 residences on private lands and approximately 100 recreation residences on federal lands.

Government Camp Fuels Reduction Project

Contact: Nathan Goodrich

Phone: (503) 622-3191 ext 671

Email: ngoodrich@fs.fed.us

Planning for a fuels reduction project around the community of Government Camp is in the early stages. The purpose of the project would be to reduce the high buildup of fuels to protect community of Government camp from the risks of wildfire. This project would create a 150-200 foot wide fuel break on Forest Service lands adjacent to the community of Government Camp, on the north side of Highway 26. The fuel break would be constructed using many different fuels reduction techniques. An Environmental Assessment (EA) will be completed.

Bull Run Lake Historic Cabin Restoration

Contact: Mike Malone

Phone: (503) 622-3191 ext 608

Email: mmalone@fs.fed.us

The City of Portland maintains three historic log cabins within the Bull Run Watershed, on the shore of Bull Run Lake. These cabins were constructed in approximately 1920, and have been determined to be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the age of these structures, it is necessary to implement stabilization and restoration treatments. The proposed action is to allow the City of Portland to restore the cabins under a Categorical Exclusion (CE). This restoration would include repairs to the roofs, walls, floors, fireplaces and windows. The restoration repairs would be designed to match the original design. The proposed treatments have been designed to meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Restoration.

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

780 NE Court Street
Dufur, OR 97021
Phone: **541-467-2291**
Hours: 7:45 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Clackamas River Ranger District

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 weekends during winter months.

Hood River Ranger District

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

70220 E. Highway 26
Zigzag, OR 97049
Phone: **503-622-3191 or
503-668-1704**
Hours: 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM, M-F

Mt. Hood Information Center

*Forest Service Information in partnership
with Clackamas County and Mt. Hood
Area Chamber of Commerce Visitor
Information*
65000 E. Highway 26
Welches, OR 97067
Phone: **503-622-7674**
Hours:
Saturday thru Thursday, 8 am-4 pm;
Friday 8 am-6 pm
(Closed Dec 25)



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