



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Mt. Hood National Forest

16400 Champion Way
Sandy, OR 97055-7248
503-668-1700
FAX# 503-668-1641

File Code: 1950-1

Date: November 15, 2004

Interested Party:

This letter is to update you on the status of the Cloak Thinning Project on the Clackamas River Ranger District. The proposal involves thinning timber harvest. The legal notice for the 30-day comment period on the Cloak proposed action was published in the Oregonian on July 5, 2004. I have considered the substantive comments received and an Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice have been prepared. I have decided to select Alternative B with modifications. Due to recent uncertainties regarding the management of northern spotted owl critical habitat units, I have decided to defer five units that are nesting/roosting/foraging habitat that are within the critical habitat units (86 acres). The modified proposal involves approximately 1463 acres of thinning timber harvest and included is the construction of 1.4 miles of temporary roads. A copy of the Environmental Assessment and Decision Notice can be downloaded from the Forest web site at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood/> in the Projects & Plans section. The Responsible Official is Gary L. Larsen, Forest Supervisor.

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 215. Any individual or organization that submitted substantive comments during the comment period may appeal. Any appeal of this decision must be in writing and fully consistent with the content requirements described in 36 CFR 215.14. The Appeal Deciding Officer is Linda Goodman, Regional Forester. An appeal should be addressed to the Regional Forester at any of the following addresses. Postal: ATTN.: 1570 APPEALS, P.O. Box 3623, Portland, OR 97208-3623; Street location for hand delivery: 333 SW 1st Ave, Portland, OR (office hours: 8-4:30 M-F); fax: 503-808-2255. Appeals can also be filed electronically at: appeals-pacificnorthwest-regional-office@fs.fed.us. Electronic appeals must be submitted as part of the actual e-mail message, or as an attachment in Microsoft Word (.doc), rich text format (.rtf), or portable document format (.pdf) only. E-mails submitted to email addresses other than the one listed above, or in formats other than those listed, or containing viruses, will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the appellant to confirm receipt of appeals submitted by electronic mail. The Appeal, including attachments, must be postmarked or received by the Appeal Deciding Officer within 45 days of the date legal notice of this decision was published in the Oregonian. The Appeal is due by December 30, 2004.

For further information regarding these appeal procedures, contact the Forest Environmental Coordinator Mike Redmond at 503-668-1700.

Sincerely,

/s/ *Reggie Huston*

for

GARY L. LARSEN

Forest Supervisor

