

**Tamarack Quarry Expansion Project
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

Mt. Hood National Forest
Clackamas County, Oregon

Responsible Agency: USDA Forest Service

Responsible Official: Gary Larson
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Abstract: This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) documents the analysis of three alternatives, including the No Action Alternative, developed for the Tamarack Quarry Expansion Project. The purpose of the proposed action is to secure a long-term, economical source of rock material for the USDA Forest Service (FS) and Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to use on highways and forest roads near Mt. Hood.

Rock would be excavated first from the remaining seven acres in the currently permitted area, then from the expansion area. Excavation would occur over the next 20 or more years, as rock is needed. ODOT anticipates removing 40,000 to 100,000 cubic yards of rock per year. The FS would extract less than 10,000 cubic yards of rock per year for project work other than emergencies. ODOT and the FS would use the excavated material for road maintenance and construction, including improvements to US Highway 26 and Oregon Route 35. Activities under all alternatives would include blasting, rock crushing, screening, batching, loading and hauling, importing excess materials for reprocessing or quarry reclamation, and short-term stockpiling of excavated rock and soils. Portions of the quarry could be reclaimed in stages, depending on the final quarry excavation plan. No improvements would be made to the haul route (FS roads 2656 and 2656-955) except for routine maintenance.

Alternative 1 is the proposed action, which would expand the Tamarack Quarry by approximately 41 acres more than the currently permitted 29 acres, for a total area of approximately 70 acres. Alternative 2 would expand the quarry by approximately 21 acres, for a total area of approximately 50 acres. Alternative 3 is the No Action Alternative where the quarry would not be expanded beyond the current permit area. The FS estimates that the existing quarry would yield approximately 750,000 additional cubic yards of material, or approximately 7 years' worth of rock. Alternative 1 is the Forest Service preferred alternative.

Reviewers should provide the FS with their comments during the review period of the DEIS. This will enable the FS to analyze and respond to comments at one time and to use acquired information in the preparation of the final environmental impact statement (FEIS), avoiding delay in the decision making process. Reviewers have an obligation to structure their participation in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process so that it is meaningful and alerts the agency to the reviewer's position and contentions. Environmental objections that could have been raised at the draft stage may be waived if not raised until after completion of the FEIS. Comments on the DEIS should be specific and address the adequacy of the statement and the merits of the alternatives discussed.

Comments on this DEIS should be sent to Mike Redmond at the above address or may be sent by e-mail to: comments-pacificnorthwest-mthood@fs.fed.us. **Comments should be received by August 30, 2004.** Comments received in response to the solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment will be considered part of the public record on the proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments may not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Part 215. A copy of the DEIS is available online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/mthood> under Projects & Plans.

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