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## Court Ruling on Five Buttes Project

*Bend*—The Deschutes National Forest received news today of the District Court ruling filed yesterday on the lawsuit regarding the Crescent Ranger District Five Buttes Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Judge Hogan found in favor of the Plaintiffs (League of Wilderness Defenders, Blue Mountain Biodiversity Project, Cascadia Wildlands and Sierra Club) against the Forest Service.

The EIS has been remanded to the Forest Service to address flaws noted by the ruling. All activities authorized by the Record of Decision and EIS have been enjoined by the Court.

The Court found that the Northwest Forest Plan guidelines "...require the proposed management activities to clearly result in greater assurance of long term maintenance of habitat." The Court also found that "...under the Ninth Circuit precedent, this analysis requires two critical features not fully implemented in the cumulative impacts analysis of the EIS in this case: First, it must not only describe related projects but also enumerate the environmental effects of those projects. Second, it must consider the interaction of multiple activities and cannot focus exclusively on the environmental impacts of an individual project."

"We are disappointed in the ruling, as I know the breadth of knowledge and hard work the Five Buttes team has put into this analysis," says Forest Supervisor John Allen. "We will work now to fully understand the judge's ruling and determine our reasonable options for response."