From:	Emily Abreu
To:	Schmidgall, Joan -FS
Subject:	Fwd: QMS Project(Old Cascade Crest trail system) Comment
Date:	Wednesday, January 29, 2020 5:28:40 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Quartzville-Middle Santiam (QMS) Project. I am writing to state my objections to the proposed project in the current state for numerous reasons.

Project Scope Issues:

Purpose is Impartial: The three stated purposes of the QMS project address a singular purpose; timber harvest rather than addressing multiple uses.

Purpose Degrades Recreational Experience: The QMS should maintain and enhance recreational use of the forest. The long-term stability of local and regional economies is strongly affected by outdoor recreation, including use of public lands for hiking, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, hunting and mountain biking.

Purpose Does Not Ensure Generational Protections: The QMS should protect and enhance the natural ecosystem, including plants, animals, water quality and air quality. In particular I am concerned that the QMS allows harvest of trees in the 100-150 year age range in fire regenerated stands. These stands may be very close to the quality of old growth and cannot be replenished in a time period that is meaningful to humans or many of the species that reside there.

Specific Units to be Removed From Consideration:

Unit 176: This unit is directly adjacent to the Middle Santiam Wilderness and Old Cascade Crest trail system as well as the main stem of Pyramid Creek. Work in this area would require re-establishment of a road bed and a significant bridge that would degrate the recreational experience. Additionally, I am also very concerned about water quality as it drains into the Wilderness.

Units 177 and 189: These units are also directly adjacent to the Middle Santiam Wilderness and I feel should be withdrawn based on similar principles to unit 176.

Unit 147: This unit lies directly in the watershed of multiple important waterways that ultimately drain into the Wilderness. I feel that this unit should be withdrawn to protect water quality and riparian habitat.

Unit 137: This unit lies directly adjacent to a long segment of a tributary of Swamp Creek, which is an important waterway draining into the Wilderness. The forest directly south of this unit and along the same waterway is some of the most spectacular preserved old growth in this entire region, some of which is inside the Wilderness boundary and some of which is outside. I feel that timber harvest should not be done on the southern two-thirds of unit 137, or on any area west of FR 648 to avoid harm to this ecosystem. I would argue that the entire strip just east of the Wilderness boundary extending to the Chimney Peak Trail should be under permanent protection.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Emily Abreu
Bend, OR