

PUBLIC COMMENTS – MULTI-USE TRAIL SYSTEM

1. EA Lacking Information Regarding Expected Impacts of New Recreational Users –
 - a. The EA lacks detail regarding expectation of recreational use to allow a reasonable assessment of impacts by public
 - i. No estimated user numbers
 1. Also, no estimate of how use might be concentrated during specific times of the year
 - ii. No assessment of environmental impact of said users
2. No comment in EA related to enforcement of use restrictions (such as no camping, illegal parking, etc..) The lower part of USFS 1004 has repeatedly been subject to criminal activity and nuisance behavior, all of which is likely to be exacerbated by increased use. No mitigation plan discussed in EA.
 - a. Issues experienced in the last 5 years include –
 - i. Litter & illegal dumping
 - ii. Illegal parking – blocking gates and pulling off onto private property
 - iii. Drunk driving
 - iv. Vandalism
 - v. Trespass
 - vi. Burglary
 - vii. Bank robbery suspects crashed and exchanged gunfire with State Police on lower corner of 1004 (still on my property – in my backyard)
 - b. USFS (Siuslaw) does not have law enforcement on staff
 - c. Tillamook county in general lacks enforcement capabilities for recreational impacts, especially in the local area
 - i. Rulemaking ongoing to limit vehicle use on South County beaches – primarily due to lack of enforcement capability of illegal camping
 - ii. There is no enforcement of restrictions on noise, curfew, drag racing, etc.. at Sandlake ATV site. If law enforcement fails to deal effectively with violations (noise) at Sandlake ATV site that impact the entire Sandlake and Tierra Del Mar Communities, then it is unlikely there will be an effort to enforce restrictions on new trail system.
 - iii. Lack of enforcement in the 1004 area has already led to events noted above with limited user base
3. EA States all Easements Have Been Verified –
 - a. Easement across 24415 Sandlake RD is not adequate. USFS does not have legal access across subject property to USFS lands
4. Increased use of USFS 1004 at Sandlake Rd increases traffic issues at junction
 - a. The straight section of Sandlake Rd at USFS 1004 junction regularly experiences speed limit violations (45 mph posted) and highspeed passing. Turning onto Sandlake from 1004 during high use periods poses risks to vehicles and pedestrians and will be exacerbated by an increasing recreational user base.
5. No statement in EA regarding potential for increased wildfire risk resulting from recreational use.

- a. According to the EA, camping will not be allowed in new trailhead/parking areas, but there are only a few dispersed camp sites in the area.
 - i. Increased user base with few available campsites will likely push users to more marginal sites, a situation likely to be exacerbated by beach access closures and the general increase in tourism.
 - ii. Wildfire risk due to increased camping in marginal locations not addressed.
- 6. Lack of hiking community involvement
 - a. The new trail system was developed with limited stakeholders. Trailkeepers of Oregon (TKO) and other hiker advocates were not involved in early planning discussions, TKO only got involved once it was too late to have a voice in formulating hiker specific trails.