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William Conroy  
District Ranger  
Hebo Ranger District, Siuslaw National Forest

Dear Mr. Conroy,

We are writing about the Phase 2 proposals for the Sandlake Resoration Project. We are concerned that the aggressive thinning of the forest may negatively impact the habitat of the Northern Spotted Owl, Marbled Murrelet, Humboldt Martin and Red Tree Vole as discussed by representatives of Audubon and Oregon Wild as outlined in their previous letters that are part of the public record.

We understand that the road building process for the commercial logging trucks may take between one and four years depending on the company that is selected. We also have the understanding that once the roads are built and the logging takes place that we will see and hear 2500 to 3000 log trucks going out the 1004 service road on to Sandlake Road. Have you selected a company and do you have a more definite timeline for when the process would take place?

We read that the money from the sale of the timber will be used "to help fund actions designed to enhance or restore ecosystem function." The next sentence reads, "Provide, improve and maintain mountain road and trail access to recreation, nature and scenic viewing within the project area." Are the mountain bike trails being constructed with timber revenue or are TORTA and its sponsors responsible for construction of the trails, parking lots, restrooms and maintenance? If so, is their source of income adequate to make this project sustainable?

We understand that there are no law enforcement officers on the staff for the Siuslaw Forest. How will enforcement of rules be handled? What about campfires, smoking or use of fireworks? Since camping with permits is already permitted in the forest, will bikers also be camping? Will permits for bikers to use the trails be required?

We walk on the forest service road and have made reports to previous rangers about illegal dumping, camping and vehicles driving off road, just to name a few problems. A staff person has always called back and attempted to remedy the problem. As you are aware, our neighbors just across a creek from us have had many problems with people using the forest service road to access their property. We are concerned that large numbers of vehicles using the forest service road would make us more vulnerable to similar problems that they have experienced as far as break ins, theft and trespassing. And the large, expensive vehicles hauling bikes up there may be at risk from break ins and vandalism if they are left unattended in the parking areas all day.

Wildfires in our area have become a serious threat in the past few years. If SB 762 is passed, will the wildfire risk maps cause changes to your Phase 2 proposal?

We have no cell phone service in our area. And our area really doesn't seem to have a lot in the way of law enforcement officers, fire protection personnel, emergency services, or any of the infrastructure that trail users might need. This road is also a legally recognized public tsunami evacuation route. Who finds solutions to all these potential problems that the trail

riders and others may experience? Already, near us, we have Sandlake ATV riders who choose not to follow regulations and laws and there are not enough rangers or law enforcement officers to deal with them.

We ask that a traffic study of 12 months or longer be conducted on Sandlake Road to determine the impact that more traffic would have on this area. You can imagine that when we learned we could have 15,000 to 60,000 more people coming here because of the bike trails, we felt alarmed. The spread between those numbers is immense so providing a more accurate figure would be helpful. We believe there needs to be further research on the effects that a large number of additional people would have on this area so we request an additional 12 month study be conducted for that purpose, also. Summer months already increase the population of South County by thousands. If an emergency or disaster of any kind occurred, we are concerned that services just wouldn't be available and that evacuation would be difficult to impossible.

We realize that you are mainly concerned about the impacts your proposals will have on the forest but the forest is not a separate entity. What happens there impacts everyone living here. We ask that the proposed mountain bike trails be postponed until more information about its impacts for our area are known. We want to know how existing infrastructure will be improved to meet the needs that so many more people would require.

Sincerely,

David and Cathy Colburn