

Tim Nelson
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May 8, 2024

Bethany Parker (Environmental / Stewardship Coordinator)
c/o Karen Morris – Roberts, Hebo Ranger District
31525 Hwy 22
PO Box 235
Hebo, Oregon 97122-0235

RE: Sand Lake Restoration Project #53176
Sand Lake EA and Phase 2 DN/FONSI Objection– March 27, 2024

Dear Ms. Parker,
CORRECTED Public Comment Forum link
<https://cara.fs2c.usda.gov/Pu>

I have reviewed the published November 17, 2020 analysis information regarding the Sand Lake Restoration Project #53176, and what has apparently developed since Drafting of an Environmental Assessment . In response to the Public Comment period published March 27, 2024, I am submitting the following comments for plan consideration. My particular concern of the plan is that of establishing new trails / mountain bike trails/ mountain bike skills area on USFS PUBLIC LAND.

I am in opposition to projects such as this, allowing building of trails / mountain bike trails for the following reasons:

- Allow/promote exclusive use of U.S. Forest Service PUBLIC lands for private party personal interests & gain. This is most evident with recent advertisements promoting the project as if it were already approved. (Attachment 1 - reference December 9, 2020, TORTA web page:)
- Allowing building of trails, which may infringe (or potentially infringe) on Natural Areas, wildlife habitat, and private properties. This has been identified in the reference environmental assessment report.
 - What consideration for endangered species has been updated through this planning process in consideration for the coho salmon and spawning ground in relation to the tributaries of Sand Lake Estuary?
- I am in opposition to including the 1004 & 1134 roads, with the establishing of trails. The 1004 road is a 'mainline' road maintained as primary access between Sand Lake to Farmer Creek. The 1134 road is a decommissioned /waterbar road (since the early 1990s), which is adjacent to the Reneke Creek & Beltz Creek Natural Area. Lands to the South and West are all private lands and also serve as the water system to Tierra Del Mar. Promoting trail establishment at the head of / along the 1134 road allows potential for disturbances to the adjacent concerns.
- Trail systems require access and parking. This is limited in the outlined region without major improvements. Who is going to be the responsible party for funding, engineering, developing, maintaining, and operating the bicycle capital improvement?

- “Build it and they will come”. This selected area cannot sustain the inundation of users, and consideration for public safety, enforcement, and operations of the trail system must be further analyzed. (Consider what happened with Sand Lake Recreation Area).

Thank you for considering this in the planning of the project. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Respectfully,

Tim Nelson

503-816-6434

cc. Karen Morris - Roberts karen.roberts@usda.gov


Sand Lake Restoration Project #53176

Sand Lake EA and Phase 2 DN/FONSI – March 27, 2024

Attachment 1: www.pinkbike.com/news/support-oregons-newest-trail-system-and-you-could-win-a-norco-sight.html?fbclid=IwAR3OWkwd1VrDvU9MMwgnHi7h8I5i57oxPux6MVs-Z2WDdcBeqU1ymnz03E00

published December 9, 2020


Promoting, publishing, and advertising before the project is even approved.




Support Oregon's Newest Trail System & You Could Win a Norco Sight

By TORTAmtb
Posted Dec 9, 2020

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Norco Fundraiser Video
by TORTAmtb



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PRESS RELEASE: TORTA