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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To: Richard Periman, Forest Supervisor & Objection Reviewing Officer

Mt. Hood National Forest

16400 Champion Way

Sandy, OR 97055

RE: In accordance with 36 CFR [sect]218, I object to the Environmental Assessment ("EA") and draft Decision for the North Clack Timber Sale.

Location: North Fork Clackamas River Watershed; on the Clackamas River Ranger District of the Mt. Hood National Forest in Clackamas County, Oregon.

Objector's Interests: I have been recreating in the North Clackamas watershed for over 20 years. The spiritual and physical enjoyment that I gain from visiting the area cannot be underestimated. Given its proximity to both the Roaring River and Salmon Huckleberry Wilderness, the North Clackamas watershed is unique in its ability to provide connectivity between the two amazing Roadless Areas. My friends and I have hiked up Tumala Mt. (Formerly Squaw Mt) countless times and have never been disappointed with views of the surrounding roadless areas. The North Clackamas Timber sale would ruin this. The excessive roadbuilding and lack of any significant road decommissioning would severely negatively impact this and the surrounding watersheds.

Requested relief: I ask the FS to analyze and pursue an alternative which does not require new roadbuilding but instead focuses on road obliteration.

I submit this Objection for the following reasons:

Roadbuilding, and the accompanying illegal ORV abuse, as well as poor road decommissioning are the major cause of degradation to our National Forest. Therefore, the Forest Service needs to restore the forest in this area by decommissioning and obliterating old logging roads, rehabilitating illegally-created motorized trails, reintroducing fire through prescribed burning, and improving habitat for fish and other important species like beaver.

Furthermore, the outdated Management Plan for Mt. Hood National Forest does not give the Forest Service direction on how to consider climate change and its impacts in their project planning processes. However, activities such as the N. Clackamas timber sale would only worsen these impacts. Additionally the Forest Service should re-do their carbon analysis as the current report in the EA is woefully inadequate.

Since the North Clack Project Area exceeds the Mt. Hood National Forest Land Resource Management Plan's (LRMP) standards for road density in the Winter Rangeland allocation, no new roads should be constructed or reconstructed. In addition to the road system continuing to exceed LRMP standards, the effects of past logging and roadbuilding activities continue to impact the area. An alternative should have been fully considered that consisted of decommissioning more Forest Service roads. FS Rd 4610 is a prime example of a road that should be decommissioned and obliterated.

While the chosen alternative would also close some roads, the MHNH has a poor record of successfully closing

roads and restoring them to a hydrologically stable condition. Despite the current high road density and the certain degradation that existing open, "closed," and new roads will cause, the USFS failed to address this issue in the EA.

For these reasons, I believe this project is inconsistent with its own Purpose and Need and would cause significant harm to the environment if it proceeds as planned.

I would welcome a productive pre-decisional objection resolution meeting with the Regional Office and MHNH staff. If you have any clarifying questions about this objection, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you,

Donald Fontenot