

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/30/2019 11:00:00 AM

First name: Tara

Last name: Hershberger

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Richard Periman, Forest Supervisor

I object to the EA and draft decision notice for the North Clack timber sale in the Clackamas ranger district of Mt. Hood National Forest.

I am a resident of Portland, and frequently visit Mt. Hood to hike, camp, see the beauty of plant and animal diversity, forage for mushrooms, and to connect with nature. I have spent a lot of time in the area of the North Clack, which is very close to Portland and full of recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat and is the home of an important watershed that supplies drinking water.

I object to this sale because it threatens mature trees, important habitat, riparian areas, and significant amounts of stored carbon. There needs to be a carbon analysis that is specific to this project. That should have been included in the EA. Logging takes carbon out of the forest and immediately releases that into the atmosphere, and, additionally, logging practices emit pollution. In all, the logging industry is the greatest source of carbon emissions in Oregon.

I have previously sent in comments regarding this timber sale. I said that the proposed logging will harm sensitive plants, and that many of the units in this sale have not been thoroughly scoped, because they do not present the conditions that would make them suitable for intervention or harvest. I said that this timber sale is full of mature and healthy stands, recovering forest and recreation areas. I asked the Forest Service to consider the value of this forest for recreation and reconnection, as well as for air and watershed health, and the forest's ability to sequester carbon.

I still object to several aspects of the sale. There are not adequate protections for the red tree vole, a survey and manage species. The open road density exceeds standards, and the project calls for a huge amount of "temporary roads" which compact soil, and disrupt watersheds and wildlife. There are many unmapped riparian areas that need to be buffered. This logging project will hurt the forest's ability to store and sequester carbon, damage the forest's resiliency to drought and wildfire and contribute to global climate catastrophe.

I appreciate that many acres have already been dropped, in order to protect the red tree vole, yet the proposed buffers do not protect the best available habitat. I support Bark's requested remedies on unit 4, 6, 18, 92, 94, 106, 198, There is a high possibility that more red tree vole nests will be found, and those sites must also be buffered. Additionally there are other sensitive species in abundance throughout the sale, including usnea and allotropa virgata.

The Forest Service needs to take a hard look at the cumulative impacts of road-building, and timber harvest. This land is adjacent to private land that is heavily logged and habitat there is destroyed. It is important to consider the effects on the whole landscape. It is necessary to avoid new roads, and actively decommission existing roads. It is essential to protect mature stands (older than 80 years) for their ability to store carbon, among others ecological benefits. Older stands, such as units 76, 96, 116, 132, 133, 184, 191, and 204, should not be subjected to "regeneration harvest".

I want to see restoration in the forest. I want to see alternatives that improve communities' resiliency to climate change. I want the appropriate buffers on sensitive species, riparian areas, and the preservation of mature trees. I want the North Clack to continue to be a place for recreation, wildlife, healthy air and watersheds, and critical carbon sinks.

I believe this project is inconsistent with its own purpose and need and would significantly cause harm to the environment if it proceeds as planned. I would welcome a meeting, and you may contact me at any time.

Thank you for your consideration,

Tara Hershberger
2019

September 30,