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Comments: Dear Joanie

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Quartzville-Middle Santiam (QMS) project and to attend the field trip with the Sweet Home Ranger District regarding the QMS. As you may know I am a member of the Salamander Volunteer Trail crew and am a retired BLM timber sale forester. I am a passionate believer in the concept of multiple use on public lands. Although I fully support the QMS project I was glad to hear from you this week that there are other projects proposed that specifically deal with recreation.

As this project falls under the Northwest Forest Plan I am confident that best management practices will be employed to mitigate impacts to environmental features(water quality, wildlife, etc). I believe that the density management units proposed will have a positive benefit on the ecological diversity of the areas where conducted. I also believe that density management has a long term benefit of fire hazard reduction.

I do have specific concerns on the impacts timber harvest may have on recreational use of the forest, particularly noise and visual effects where harvest occurs near the Middle Santiam Wilderness or near any and all established trails. In order to mitigate noise effects I suggest limiting harvest to times of low visitor use, not on weekends or holidays. In order to prevent visual damage I would like to see all established trails remain intact following harvest and for slash be disposed of where it is immediately adjacent to trails. I am also cognizant that opening stands near trails may actually improve the view that users enjoy.

Thanks for allowing me to comment and I would like to read the published EA (Environmental analysis report) when it is published.

Sincerely

Phil Sjoding