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Comments: The "Flat Country Project" proposes logging over four-thousand acres in the headwaters of our treasured McKenzie River and right up to the edge of the Mt. Washington Wilderness. While some of the project is focused on restorative thinning in young plantations and emphasizing roadside fire safety, over 3,000 acres of native forest is proposed to be logged. Of that, nearly 1,000 acres are targeted for clearcut-style logging.

Environmental volunteers have spent time in these groves, and can testify to their value to imperiled species like northern spotted owl, bull trout and king salmon, which swim all the way up to this area from the Pacific Ocean to spawn.

The McKenzie River is our backyard, home watershed, and this is the sort of exploitation Oregonians have long since rejected. We aren't going to stand for a return to clearcutting native forests in this special place.