

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2020 8:06:53 PM

First name: Kim

Last name: McCarrel

Organization: Oregon Equestrian Trails

Title:

Comments: I am writing on behalf of Oregon Equestrian Trails, an all-volunteer nonprofit organization representing equestrian trail riders statewide. Our mission includes maintaining trails and horse camps, working to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational equestrian use, and educating equestrians in the use of "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics and trail etiquette.

We support the purpose and need for this project and recognize that fuels reduction and timber harvest treatments are important tools for maintaining the health and vitality of our forests. Depending on how you implement t, this project may have adverse impacts on equestrian trail users. To mitigate those impacts, we urge you to incorporate the following features in the project:

*Ensure that the roads leading to the Robinson Lake, Benson/Tenas, and Fingerboard Prairie trailheads are maintained to allow horse trailer access. The roads in question are 2643, 2649, 2657, 2664, and 865/640, and 676.

*Maintain adequate trailer parking and trailer turnaround space at the Robinson Lake, Benson/Tenas, and Fingerboard Prairie trailheads. We would like to see a portion of the captured funds from this project used to improve trailer parking and turnaround at the trailheads.

*Ensure that thinning and other treatments do not adversely impact the user experience on area trails by maintaining reasonable setbacks on either side of each trail.

The trails in the Scott Mountain/Benson/Tenas area are very important to equestrians and other visitors. Not only are these trails scenic, but they also provide access to the Mt. Washington Wilderness and provide an east-west connection. They are also the closest point at which many west-side trail users can access the Central Cascades Wildernesses.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Respectfully,

Kim McCarrel

VP of Public Lands

Oregon Equestrian Trails