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Title: Wildlife Habitat Biologist

Comments: As the agency mandated with management of Oregon's fish and wildlife (ORS 496.012), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (Department) is responding to your request for scoping comments on the Cave Resource Protection Forest Order (Order). The purpose of the Order is to increase consistency in managing cave resources and reduce the spread of white-nose syndrome to bats on the Deschutes National Forest (Forest).

The Department supports the Order as outlined in the scoping documents and appreciates the Forest's effort to increase protection of fragile cave resources upon which many bat species rely.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have questions or want information that the Department can provide, please contact me.