

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 9/10/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: Cathryn

Last name: Payne

Organization:

Title:

Comments: File code: 1950

September 10, 2020

Deschutes National Forest

Environmental Assessment:

Attention: Holly Jewkes, Forest Supervisor

This letter is an objection to the response that there is no significant impact for Camping and Campfires Forest Order.

Just as I write this objection, the National Forests are ablaze in much of the forests. People are barely getting out with only their lives. On China Hat, 9/5/20 there was a vehicle/camper fire which fire agencies responded. Then on 9/6/20 there was a fire from the use of Tannerite causing fire agencies to respond again. This is a very dangerous situation that happens to often off China Hat. How is that not an impact on the forest and the surrounding neighborhoods. Fortunately, fire agencies were able to extinguish it quickly.

On 8/15/20, the Juniper Ridge Fire started in the homeless encampment. It was caused by a motorhome fire. It consumed 39 acres very quickly.

The homeless are setting up camp way to close to the neighborhood. It creates a very dangerous situation if a fire grows out of control. They do not have adequate water to put out their own campfires. It will leave us no time to get out adequately. Rules and laws are not adhered to by these campers.

What about the impact the campers have on us as property owners and tax payers? They make noise at all hours of the night, shoot firearms whenever. I don't feel safe working in my yard or walking the trails, as I am concerned about a stray bullet. By the time Sheriffs can respond, they stop, knowing that they won't get caught.

My husband's family lost their home and lodge from an out of control forest fire. They lost everything, including all of his childhood photos. It was very devastating to him. The Smith's on Ridgeview Dr. also lost their home in Ventura, California 3 years ago.

Last year Woodside Ranch Homeowners Association had a speaker come, who has moved here after losing their house in the Paradise, California fire. She showed pictures of the fire and how she and her husband barely made it out of the fire. The fire moved extremely fast giving them no time to prepare to get out. They got out with their lives, just barely. It was estimated the fire was moving a mile a minute. If that happened here, we would not have time to get out.

Do we have to wait until there is a devastating fire here or a shooting in order to do something? I'm sure if this was your neighborhood, you would see it differently. The forest suffers from their human waste, trash and driving

on trails that are not designated as roads. They also have impact on the deer in the area. We have seen fewer deer here than in past years. I understand the campers can't set up homeless camps on the west side of Bend due to deer migration. What about here?

A suggested remedy would be for the homeless to have a designated area further out east, far away from homes. Do as they did during the Depression, set up camp with a shared camp kitchen, out houses, water storage and tents. It couldn't cost more than the resources they use now. Several have cars and they do get around. At least if they were further away from neighborhoods, we would have time to get out in case of fire.

Roads surrounding Woodside Ranch are non-motorized and thus are not open to dispersed camping. The Forest Service is not enforcing their own laws.

Cathryn Payne