

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/31/2021 1:02:48 AM

First name: Jeffrey

Last name: Richardson

Organization:

Title:

Comments:

January 30, 2021

Slater Turner, District Ranger

Lookout Mountain RD, Ochoco National Forest

3160 NE Third Street

Prineville, OR 97754

Dear Mr. Turner:

I would like to offer some comments on the Mill Creek Dry Forest Restoration Project.

Overall, I support the objectives of this and other dry forest restoration projects on the Ochoco National Forest. In terms of project design and implementation, I would ask that serious consideration be given to the following:

--Incorporate to the fullest extent possible the Dry Forest Restoration Recommendations developed by the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative (2017);

--I have concerns that the size and spatial scope of the Black Mountain Vegetation Management Project and the Mill Creek project, taken together, represent a potential to create excessive negative impacts, especially on wildlife. The greatest care should be taken to avoid such an eventuality by spacing and timing restoration activities over a longer horizon;

--It may be beyond the scope of this planning effort to deal with the issue of wilderness and roadless areas. However, until such time as concrete steps are taken to permanently protect roadless and de facto wilderness areas on the Ochoco, I strongly urge maximum efforts to decommission and close roads on this and similar projects, (including limits on temporary roads, and reclamation of temporary roads). I believe this is necessary both to protect natural resources and to preserve important non-motorized recreational opportunities until they can be properly addressed in future planning efforts.

.

--It is not clear to me how climate change and the risks posed by invasive plant species are going to be addressed by this project. They do need to be factored into any analysis of alternatives.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Richardson