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Organization: Scott County Regional Horse Association

Title:

Comments: The SCRHA is a volunteer organization with the CRD. At the time of signing the agreement, 12 years ago, the ranger gave his permission for the SCRHA, Trail Committee, to clear/maintain old logging roads/trails for riding. The area within the Devils Hens Nest Vegetation Project is one of the areas that is enjoyed for its scenic beauty. The closed canopy of the "soon to be" Old growth forest is valued by many. Riders come from outside the region to enjoy the mountain that is our home. The SCRHA would express concern regarding many of the activities proposed for the DHNV, specifically the removal of the older trees. Besides losing the beauty and shade of these treasures, the runoff and erosion will negatively impact the watersheds of Cove and Stock Creeks. Their loss will also contribute to climate warming due to an increase of carbon being released into the atmosphere as well as a reduction of carbon storage. Invasive species take over areas where the canopy is removed and crowd out many species of native flora. Fragmenting habitat is detrimental to much of the native fauna as well. For these reasons, the SCRHA objects to many of the activities proposed in the DHNV. Repairing the roads, culverts and ditches, removing invasive species and stopping the ATV activity while protecting the old growth trees would be supported as that would have a positive impact for generations to enjoy.