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First name: Rebecca

Last name: Tarbox

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have been a Clack Co resident for many years and see the Clackamas River as an extremely important resource for recreation. Having it closed for this long has been really hard. Additionally it has put a ton of extra strain on the 26/Mt Hood corridor which has been tough. My personal priorities for the Clack are opening it up to recreation, not just blanket cutting a ton of trees which would have negative environmental impact, and keeping the trash/fires down there. I'd much rather see our forest service resources used to police people trashing the area (additional trash cans at pit toilets/Rex areas would help) and preventing fires than anything else. There are a lot of roads out there that are so trashed they're difficult to access at all and I'd be fine seeing those decommissioned.

Additionally:

* I acknowledge that the Forest Service has dealt with many obstacles related to reopening the forest and applaud your commitment to do a full environmental analysis of the current road system and the roadside abatement being considered there. I believe you have an opportunity here to reexamine the ecological impacts of forest roads that are exacerbated by recent fires, especially impacts to salmon and drinking water. The Mt. Hood National Forest road system is oversized, and the agency did not have funding to maintain it even before the fires. Reducing the open road network could address economic and ecological challenges the agency faces.

* Danger tree removal would not make sense on roads that are currently closed or decommissioned, have previous decisions to be closed or decommissioned, or on roads identified in the analysis for future closure or decommissioning

* In terms of "striking distance", the proposal regarding tree-heights will likely be based on site specific circumstances. This is a good way to move forward as long as those circumstances are discussed in the analysis with Project Design Criteria.

* The planning area hosts congressionally designated Wild and Scenic Rivers. All management activities within these river corridors must protect and or enhance the identified outstandingly remarkable values for those segments. Furthermore, this project spans Late Successional Reserves and Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl, which often use burned patches for foraging. A full analysis on current and proposed impacts to wildlife and available habitat should be completed before this project is approved.

* Maintaining access to cultural resources requires meaningful consultation with the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde. Mt. Hood's management plan provides direction on honoring treaty rights, and traditional areas that are covered by the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

* Lastly, the Forest Service must acknowledge the impacts to local communities which have resulted from the long-term closure of Highway 224 along the Clackamas River. The Oregon Department of Transportation is close to completing their roadside abatement activities on the state highway. I encourage you to consider allowing river access after these activities are completed, even if the Forest Service roads are not ready for reopening. The Forest Service could keep their connecting roads closed while still providing access to the river while they complete their roadside work on roads deeper into the forest.