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Title:

Comments: I am very familiar with both sites and where the proposed new routes would impact.

It's been a few years since I have camped near the Windy Lakes inside the Oregon Cascades Recreation Area (OCRA). Some of the Windy Lakes nearest the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) are highly impacted by normal hikers/campers, through PCT hikers, and hunters. This is one of the few places one can access water after hiking from the south on the PCT thus has heavy camping use by PCT hikers.

I am very concerned that increased use to the Windy Lakes will degrade all the banks of all the lakes not just the ones closest to the PCT and dramatically increase campsite impacts.

I am also concerned that increased ease of access will lead to more people leaving and burning their trash along the banks of the lakes. Even in official wilderness I am accustomed to seeing and cleaning out fire pits with burned items including plastic from ready to eat meals. In fact I recently found remnants of an entire plastic tarp burned on the banks of the Middle Erma Bell Lake in the Three Sisters Wilderness.

The OCRA is special to many people who hike, hunt and seek solitude away from busier wilderness areas.

In regards to the Bunchgrass Ridge trail (3559) additions. I don't think it's needed because there is a well maintained road (5883) to access the same trails plus the fragile soils and meadows of the Bunchgrass Meadows (Little Bunchgrass Meadow included) especially in the intense burned areas of the Warner Creek arson fire (Kelsey Creek drainage) don't need more use but less. I've hiked and minimally maintained this trail for years in the late 90's. I hike all or portions of it at least once a year every year. If Mt bikers want to get to Fuji Mt Trail and Trail 3674 to ride to the Waldo Lake area they can ride the gravel road (5883) without impacting sensitive soils, species and old growth Mt hemlock stands. However, there is also a old trail already there near the 500 Road off of 5883 that has not been maintained. If anything, it could be maintained to provide some additional access to trail 3674.

I believe both of these proposals should be analyzed in an EA because they enter, access, and impact Inventoried Roadless Areas and Special Designated areas thus should not be approved through a Categorical Exclusion.

Also, I've talked to the District Ranger Dwayne Bishop about some of my concerns. I request that this comment or email be forwarded to the District Ranger.

I would be happy to discuss this in person and even visit the sites.

Thank you for your time.

Shannon Wilson