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Comments: Thank you for receiving public comments and for withdrawing the planned thinning/logging treatments in the Shellrock Creek watershed between High Rock and Lightning Creeks, a riverine area with steep land slopes, multiple ephemeral streams, and most importantly, cool water temperatures that feed the Clackamas River (AREMP survey data July 2025).

In the future, I encourage the USFS and its partners to pursue monitoring and planning in the Shellrock watershed that prioritizes aquatic and riparian restoration over wood product management goals.

Concerning the Anvil Vegetative Management Project's public engagement letter:

"However, decades of fire exclusion, past management practices, and recent shifts in long-term weather conditions have contributed to the alteration of historic disturbances. With this, and changes to drought patterns, the forest is more susceptible to large scale disturbances and is seeing a departure from desired vegetation conditions identified in the Mt. Hood Forest Plan and Northwest Forest Plan. These past practices have also resulted in elevated fuel loading along roads, potentially increasing the risk to firefighters during wildfire response."

"The purpose of the project is to improve forest health and diversity and reduce excessive fuel loading primarily along roads."

"The project would include various vegetation treatments, such as thinning, reducing surface fuels, and prescribed burning. The project would also include roadside treatments to help make wildfire response, as well as ingress or egress, safer and more effective."

In response, I advise that that the USFS should:

- 1) Provide more details on how mechanical treatments or mastication might be assessed and applied during site-specific thinning/logging treatments, notably among them, the extensive roadside treatments as planned.
- 2) Assess how roadside maintenance treatments might prioritize the creation of shaded fuel breaks while avoiding potential adverse effects as cited in the 2015 Mount Hood TAR, pages 67-68.
- 3) Assess and prioritize science-based prescribed burning wherever possible toward the goal of enhancing biodiversity.
- 4) Respect federal government trust responsibilities toward regional First Nations, and engage indigenous knowledge when developing site-specific planning of vegetative treatments.
- 5) Ensure the preservation of large living trees, snags and downed logs within units where thinning/logging is planned, doing so toward a goal of enhancing biodiversity and supporting a best-health scenario of native flora and fauna.
- 6) Close or decommission unused, unmaintained or problematic forest roads (a) in accordance with the many reasons addressed in the 2015 Mount Hood TAR, pages 4, 9-10, 67-68; and (b) to reduce the risk of human-caused fire starts which, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, "account for 88 percent of all wildfires nationally."

7) Implement an effective monitoring system to insure that project design and treatments achieve highest ecological standards.