

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/30/2021 2:03:00 PM

First name: Westfir

Last name: Lodge

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Public Comment from Westfir Lodge re: Warner Mountain Logging

[External Email]

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To: Willamette National Forest.

From: Noah Sunflower, Tracey Sunflower owners,

Westfir Lodge and Mountain Market

We are writing to express our agreement with the public comment submitted by Oregon Wild regarding the Warner Mountain(Youngs Rock Rigdon) logging project.

We ask that the forest pursue alternatives that start with protecting old growth and endangered species. The project as proposed, prioritizes logging at the expense of threatened and endangered species that rely on old growth forest to survive.

Kind Regards,

Tracey and Noah Sunflower

Westfir Lodge

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Westfirlodge.com

(541) 246-9007

----- Forwarded message -----

From: SWFC <director@swfcollaborative.org <mailto:director@swfcollaborative.org> >

Date: Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 4:44 PM

Subject: Fwd: Oregon Wild YRR comments

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Hi Folks,

Please see below the official OR Wild comments to the Youngs Rock Rigdon project that Chandra shared. We will discuss YRR comments in relation to RCC zones of agreement at our regularly scheduled meeting next month. If you have additional comments to share with the group please let me know and I can forward. The next Rigdon Collaboration Committee meeting is Monday, September 20th at 1PM. I will let you know closer to that time if we should extend the meeting to 1.5 or 2 hours based on the agenda.

Also, I was hoping we would return to in-person meetings this fall but the recent increase in Covid cases means that we will have to stick to zoom meetings for the time being.

Thanks and enjoy your last few weeks of summer,
Sarah

Sarah Altemus-Pope
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----- Forwarded message -----

From: Chandra LeGue <cl@oregonwild.org <mailto:cl@oregonwild.org> >
Date: Mon, Aug 23, 2021 at 1:42 PM
Subject: YRR comments
To: SWFC <director@swfcollaborative.org <mailto:director@swfcollaborative.org> >

Here are Oregon Wild-Cascadia Wildlands-MRG Sierra Club comments on the YRR DEIS you can share with the Rigdon committee.

They are long, but about half (starting on page 58) are supplementary materials. Our summary of key recommendations are as follows:

We commend the Forest Service (FS) for some aspects of this project such as floodplain restoration, road

decommissioning, recreation enhancements, variably thinning dense young plantations that were previously clearcut, non-commercial thinning of the understory along roads, full protection of riparian reserves in natural stands, and meadow restoration. Unfortunately all this good work is overshadowed by unnecessarily aggressive logging of 1400 acres of natural forests, clearcutting of 500 acres of plantations, and 10 miles of new road construction.

Our main recommendations to improve this project and help achieve a more harmonious mix of goals for public lands are:

- * Consider a new alternative that better harmonizes pine/oak persistence on the one hand, spotted owl habitat maintenance, avoiding GHG emissions by keeping carbon stored in forests, maintaining canopy cover that helps suppress ladder fuels and maintain fire resilience while reducing long-term maintenance costs, mitigating blow-down risks, and conserving recreation/scenic values,
- * Conduct careful legacy tree culturing of pine, oak, and other legacy trees by thinning small/young trees around the dripline of those trees;
- * Drop logging of natural stands that have few if any pine trees;
- * Amend the definition of "legacy trees" to be protected in harvest units to include all trees over 24" dbh, as well as smaller trees that exhibit old growth characteristics, such as thick/textured/colored bark, large branches, distinctive canopy architecture, tall height, etc.;
- * Retain more trees in natural stands (except around pine and oak as described above) to maintain spotted owl habitat, carbon storage, and long-term low-maintenance fire resiliency;
- * Avoid stand-scale regen except for structure-rich gaps in managed stands. Wildfire will decide where stands will be regenerated;
- * Minimize road construction and expand non-commercial small tree thinning (which does not require roads) to areas with abundant pine and oak that are not accessible from existing roads;
- * Avoid wet season logging and log hauling to protect soil, water quality, and fish;
- * Make sure all design features get carried through to marking crews, contractors, etc.
- * Conduct thorough monitoring of project implementation and effectiveness.

Chandra LeGue
she/her/hers
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Author of Oregon's Ancient Forests: A hiking guide

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guide&data=04%7C01%7C%7C150a01f51315436ada7108d96bbe8778%7Ced5b36e701ee4ebc867ee03cf
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JQljoiv2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=YnG5J9u9E%2F2oVBYvsdf2S3nm
xI94vw8PeVECFgmhnyl%3D&reserved=0> . Pick up a copy and get outside to enjoy Oregon's forests and
wildlands!