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First name: Joseph
Last name: Stack
Organization: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Title: Regional Habitat Biologist
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Donna Mickley

Acting Forest Supervisor

Willamette National Forest

3106 Pierce Parkway, Suite D

Springfield, OR 97477

RE: 2020 Fire Affected Roads System Risk Reduction Project Supplemental Environmental Assessment comments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Supplemental EA for the 2020 Fire Affected Road System Risk Reduction project. The project objectives aim to reduce the risks posed by fire-killed and injured trees that have fallen across or remain standing along important access routes of the Beachie Creek and Lionshead fire-affected road systems so that access to and through the burned areas can be restored.

It is policy of the state of Oregon to manage fish and wildlife to prevent serious depletion of indigenous species and to provide the optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits for present and future generations of the citizens of this state (ORS 496.012). In accordance with this mission, the department provides the following comments and recommendations for the record:

Post work restoration along the roads should include reseeding efforts that contains forage for big game species. Open meadow habitat is lacking across the Willamette National Forest, with many historic meadows now being dominated by woody vegetation and no longer providing optimum foraging opportunities for ungulate species. Additionally, reseeding will provide soil stabilization measures and help reduce the establishment of non-native vegetation.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the 2020 Fire Affected Road System Risk Reduction Project

Supplemental Environmental Assessment. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to discuss other project aspects, please do not hesitate to contact me at 541-757-5301.

Respectfully,

Joseph Stack

Regional Habitat Biologist

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife