

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 5/12/2025 12:00:00 PM
First name: jennifer
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Organization: Emerald Chapter, Native Plant Society
Title: Director at Large; Conservation Chair
Comments: Dear Ranger Wisehart,

The Emerald Chapter of Native Plant Society is pleased to be able to comment on your Steeple Rock Rigdon Environmental Assessment. The Native Plant Society advocates for education , conservation and enjoyment of native plant communities.

It looks like your botanists have done a nice job of surveying and analyzing the various components of the proposed action including thinning, prescribed burning and restoration activities.

We would like to advocate for funding for the 30 acres of meadow restoration in the vicinity of Grass Mountain as these high meadows along the Calapooia Ridge contain a high diversity of native plants and plant communities unique in the watershed. This area is biologically diverse as the ridgeline creates a northern extent for many species more common in southern Oregon and California, so it is a diverse botanical mixing zone.

We would also like to advocate for the funding of weed control/revegetation to mitigate weed spread post-project. It is much easier to treat small infestations of weeds post-treatment than to let them get established and uncontrollable. Because the Botanical Report was not included with the EA as an addendum, it is unclear what weeds are high priority in the watershed, but presumably knapweed is one that would be important to control early.

Thank you for allowing us to comment on your project.

Sincerely yours,

Jennifer Lippert

Emerald Chapter NPSO Conservation Committee Chair