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Comments: I am writing to submit comments on the Stone Creek Vegetation Management Project Draft EA.

I submitted comments during the scoping period. Many of the questions and concerns that I raised in my scoping comments have been addressed in the Draft EA. Overall, I support most aspects of this project as it is currently written.

I have three remaining issues of concern, which I strongly urge the agency to incorporate into the implementation of this project.

1: In other projects in the Clackamas Ranger District, specifically post-fire hazard work in the Riverside Fire area, I have seen firsthand serious, avoidable, contractor errors that resulted in significant damage to resources and infrastructure. These types of damaging actions must be prevented. This can be achieved through regular onsite monitoring by agency staff, and by selection of local, experienced, knowledgeable contractors.

2: There are many dispersed camping sites within the planning area. In some of these sites, unauthorized and damaging off-road vehicle use occurs in sensitive places, including where Forest Road 5740 crosses Stone Creek, just north of FR 5740-240. At this dispersed camping area, motor vehicles are regularly driven into Stone Creek. (See attached annotated map.) This area appears to be included in the Recreation Specialist report as Dispersed Areas #1, #2, #4, #5. The presence of motor vehicle use in Stone Creek is in conflict with management direction for streams.

Where treatments (including road closure, roadside fuels and thinning) will take place at displaced camping sites, there is coincidental opportunity to deter future unauthorized off-road vehicle use, during post-treatment rehabilitation, by placement of root wads, slash, boulders, etc., within the guidelines of the PDCs.

One further question regarding FR 5740-240 arose in my examination of the Transportation Report and the map of Proposed Road Changes. Transportation Report Table 3, Proposed Action Roads Table, identifies FR 5740-240 for closure, no stormproofing, change from ML2 to ML1. However, the map of Proposed Road Changes does not identify FR 5740-240 for closure. I fully support closing FR 5740-240, and draw attention to this discrepancy so that it can be consistent in the final document. If FR 5740-240 is going to be closed, then the issue of motor vehicles in the stream will be addressed. If FR 5740-240 is not going to be closed, then the issue can be addressed during post-treatment rehabilitation.

3. Unit 1349 overlaps with two Riparian Reserve areas and streams, one on the east side and one on the west side. The wetland area on the east side of the unit has been surveyed by staff and volunteers with Bark, and has been found to have special characteristics. I urge the Forest Service to closely study the information provided by Bark staff and volunteers, and to modify the planned action as necessary to maintain and protect the special characteristics of this wetland area.

Overall, I generally support the Stone Creek project, and the process through which it was developed. I recognize the knowledge, skills, experience, thoughtfulness, and care that many dedicated Forest Service employees contributed to the development of this project. I appreciate the responsiveness to public input, and the level of attention to important details. I appreciate the opportunity to provide public input. I respect the Forest Service's responsiveness to the concerns of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, whose people have stewarded these lands forever. I support the restoration of fire as a management tool, and also the restoration of cultural burning practices.

Respectfully,
Mia Pisano