

1926

January 4, 2008

Anthony Alquiza
Diana Alquiza
P.O. Box 408
10901 Redwood Highway
Wilderville, OR 97543

RECEIVED
JAN 11 2008

Western Oregon Plan Revisions
P.O. Box 2965
Portland, OR 97208

Subject: Comment on Elliott Creek as a Potential OHV Emphasis Area

To whom it may concern,

The purpose of this letter is to express our opposition to the designation of the Elliott Creek area as an OHV Emphasis Area. We request the area be Closed to OHV use.

Our concerns can collectively be categorized under "Quality of Life" – and specifically raise questions regarding water quality, air quality, safety, wildlife preservation, traffic and noise pollution.

The landscape that covers the Elliott Creek area provides a watershed that supplies our well, our ponds and Slate Creek. Rain and snow that falls on Wonder Mountain and the surrounding area directly fills our well – our primary source of drinking water – and also fills our ponds and Slate Creek, our secondary and tertiary sources of drinking water. The use of OHV 's on the watershed, no matter how well regulated, will result in spills and leaks of oil, gas and other pollutants that will seep into the groundwater, and thus contaminate our drinking water.

Any increase in the use of OHV's will increase the amount of carbon monoxide and other airborne pollutants. Our choice to live in this area was in large part influenced by the absence of smog and air pollution, and therefore provides a clean environment for my wife, who suffers from chronic asthma and respiratory problems.

Our concern for safety is in regard to hikers, equestrians as well as others that may be hurt with the increase of OHV use. Unless the BLM plans to have separate trails and paths for hikers, equestrians and OHV's, the likelihood of injury accidents is high. One only has to look at statistics in any urban community to see that pedestrians fair more poorly in areas that lack sidewalks, crosswalks, traffic signals and stop signs. To put hikers and equestrians in rugged terrain without any separation will surely result in injury accidents... and potential lawsuits against the BLM for improper facilities.

Of course, the above issues will also have a negative impact on wildlife. Any degradation to water quality and air quality will be detrimental to local wildlife, including the salmon that spawn in Elliott and Slate Creeks.

And finally, if the Elliott Creek area is designated as an OHV Emphasis Area, it will inevitably draw more traffic and create more noise pollution, both damaging to a peaceful, quality of life.

Your consideration of the above comments will be much appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alquiza', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Anthony & Diana Alquiza

File: D:\Doc's\Personal\BLM OHV 071231.docx