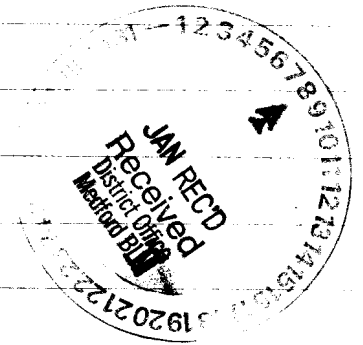


P.O. Box 191
Eagle Point, OR. 97524

2523

Jan. 5, 2008

Medford BLM Office
Tomi Ruessac / District Manager
3040 Biddle Road
Medford, OR. 97524



Dear Mr. Ruessac:

I am writing concerning the BLM's WOPR and in particular the OHV proposal that designates 11 new "OHV Emphasis Areas". I live on South Fork Little Butte Cr. Rd. and the Lake Creek area would certainly be impacted by your proposal. I have attended several of your public informational meetings and have listened to comments from both sides.

The Executive Order 11644 of Feb. 8, 1972, signed by the Department of the Interior states most of my concern: "Areas and trails shall be located to minimize damage to soil, watershed, vegetation, or other resources of the public lands." The Lake Creek area has clay composite soil. It is on the 303(d) list with the State of Oregon DEQ, for seasonal problems with sediment, bacteria, and temperature. The run-off from the surrounding mountains flows into Coho salmon bearing streams. Clay soil areas have a higher risk of erosion. Ruts created by off-road vehicles remain forever and create deep ravines. Vegetation does not return to these areas.

Another statement from the Executive Order 11644: "Areas and trails shall be located to minimize harassment of wildlife or significant disruption of wildlife habitats."

According to the Oregon Fish + Wildlife Dept., Lake Creek has been listed as wintering ground for the Cascade Black Tail deer. The same people using off-road vehicles should be concerned hunters too.

The third statement from Order 11644: "Areas and trails shall be located to minimize conflicts between off-road vehicle use and other existing or proposed recreational uses of the same or neighboring public lands, and to ensure the compatibility of such uses with existing conditions in populated areas, taking into account noise and other factors." I support the article in the Mail Tribune, Jan. 2, 2008, "Take it outside kids"; the BLM proposal to connect kids with the environment. These activities would be appropriate for the Lake Creek area that has many hiking trails, and would minimize noise, soil compaction, and garbage that is often left behind by motorized vehicles.

Fire danger is often high in summer and fall in Lake Creek. In December, 2005, after heavy rains, soil erosion from a 2002 forest fire, caused flooding down Star Creek and the surrounding lands. This was a natural caused fire, but adding more people, camp fires, etc. to the environment could increase the fire danger.

Presently there are 2 rangers and 1 sheriff who desk our area. Where will you find the resources to monitor these parks?

Whatever decision you make, please consider all these "scientific" concerns - causing erosion, impairing water quality, and disturbing wildlife before placing OHV parks in the Madford BLM District.

Sincerely yours,
Elizabeth Barthou